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Here is Greenwood™

story and art by Yukie Nasu

vol.6

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Vol. 6
Shôjo Edition
Story and Art by Yukie Nasu

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
HERE IS GREENWOOD is rated T+ for Older Teen. Recommended for ages 16 and up.
This volume contains suggestive situations.

Here is Greenwood.

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CLONED VALENTINE

Here is Greenwood Guide to Honorifics

"sempai"
Used to address more senior members of an organization. In a school, students in grades higher than the speaker are addressed as (their name here)-*sempai*. The honorific used to address students in lower grades is *kohai*. These honorifics are used in many other Japanese institutions, such as company offices.

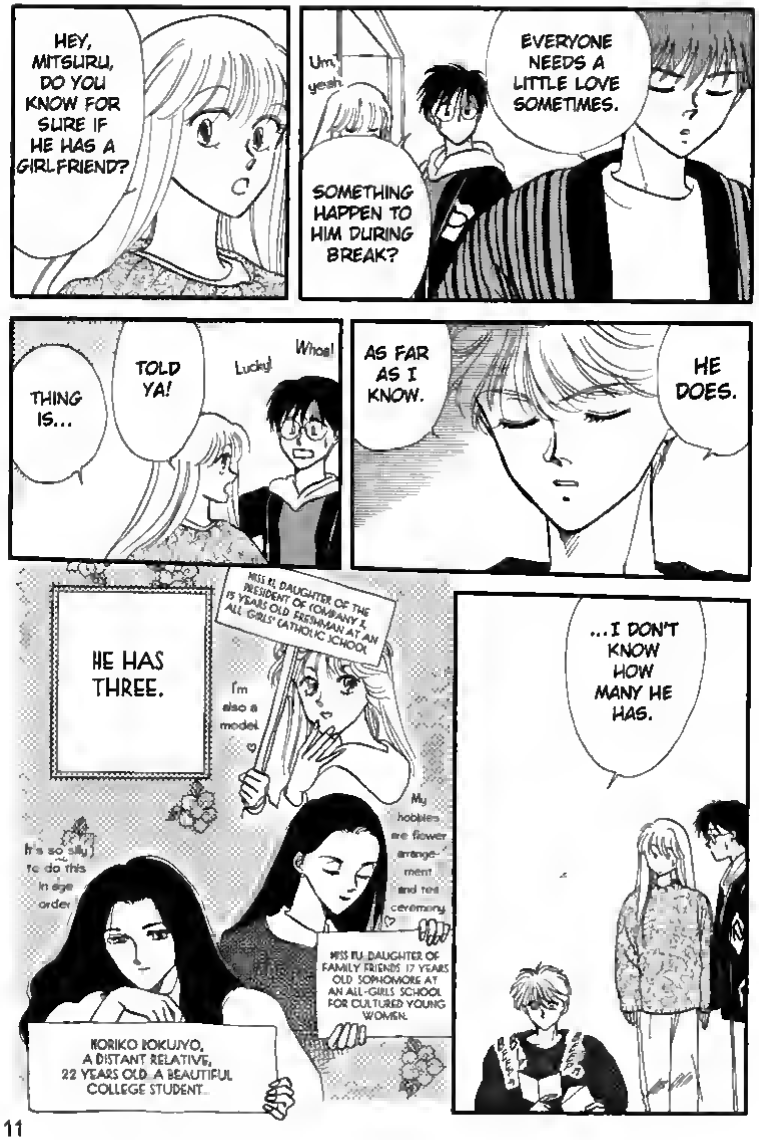
"Sempai/kohai relationship"
Since *Here is Greenwood* takes place in a school, the *sempai/kohai* relationship is a crucial aspect of the life of the students. It is much like a Western mentor/protégé relationship, but on a school-wide scale. *Sempai*, the senior students, are expected to look after the interests of their *kohai* and guide them, help them with their problems, give them referrals, and be their counselors. *Kohai* are expected to respect their *sempai*, do chores or menial tasks, follow orders, and learn.

Diminutives and nicknames
Like western nicknames, most Japanese nicknames are shortened versions of full names, sometimes with the honorific *-chan* or *-kun* tacked at the end. Sumire calls her husband "Hiro-kun," shortened from Kazuhiro-kun; similarly she calls her brother-in-law "Yekkun," shortened and slightly changed from Kazuya-kun. "Suka-chan" (pronounced ska-chahn) is a similar diminutive taken from Hasukewa, except that the word "suka" is also a not-so-common insult approximately equivalent to "baka" (fool).

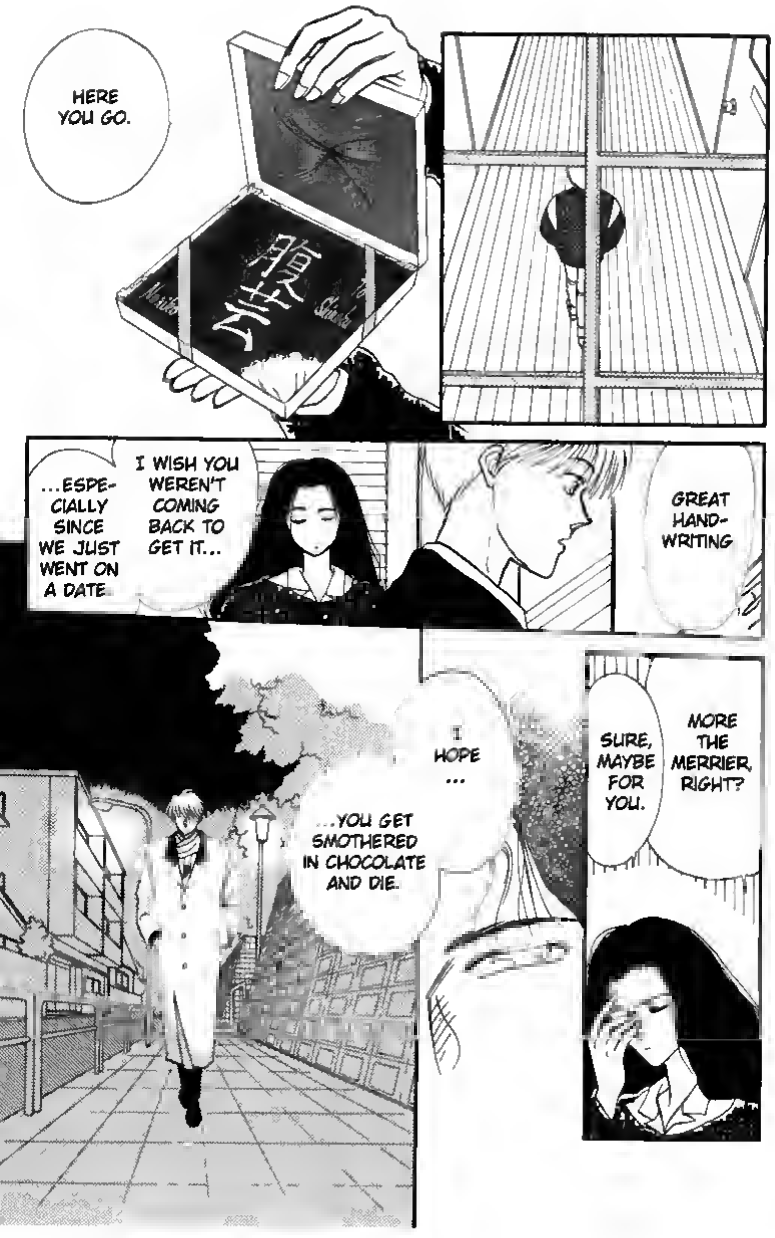
–William Flanagan

CLONED VALENTINE

To: Mitsuru Ikeda
I'll love you forever.
You're the best!!
From Ka-Ko
I want to hear your voice...
Call me.
MITSURU! I'M OFF!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
SURE THING.


HEY, MITSURU, DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE IF HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND?
Um, yeah.
EVERYONE NEEDS A LITTLE LOVE SOMETIMES.
SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HIM DURING BREAK?
THING IS...
TOLD YA!
Lucky!
Whoa!
AS FAR AS I KNOW.
HE DOES.
HE HAS THREE.
MISS KI, DAUGHTER OF THE PRESIDENT OF COMPANY X, 15 YEARS OLD FRESHMAN AT AN ALL GIRLS' CATHOLIC SCHOOL
I'm also a model.
It's so silly to do this in age order.
My hobbies are flower arrangement and tea ceremony
MISS FU, DAUGHTER OF FAMILY FRIENDS 17 YEARS OLD SOPHOMORE AT AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL FOR CULTURED YOUNG WOMEN.
NORIKO BOKUJYO, A DISTANT RELATIVE, 22 YEARS OLD. A BEAUTIFUL COLLEGE STUDENT.
...I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY HE HAS.

HE'S BEEN OUT A LOT LATELY.
I WONDER WHERE HE'S GOING.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU THINK HE GOT DRESSED UP TO SAY HIS PRAYERS AT THE TEMPLE OR SOMETHING? IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY !
IS SHINOBU BREAKING THE CURFEW RULES AGAIN?
I BROUGHT YOUR TAPE BACK...
We're coming in!
YEAH.
SO SHINOBU HAS A GIRLFRIEND?
WHAT?
HE'S GOING ON A DATE!
SO HE HAS A GIRL-FRIEND. BIG DEAL.
Wow! Lucky!
Y... YOU GOT A POINT ...
WHO CARES?
WHY WOULD HE GO SOLO?
OF COURSE HE DOES! HE CAN HAVE ANY GIRL HE WANTS.


HERE YOU GO.
GREAT HAND-WRITING
I WISH YOU WEREN'T COMING BACK TO GET IT...
...ESPECIALLY SINCE WE JUST WENT ON A DATE.
MORE THE MERRIER, RIGHT?
SURE, MAYBE FOR YOU.
I HOPE ...
...YOU GET SMOTHERED IN CHOCOLATE AND DIE.

THE CURFEW AT GREENWOOD IS 9 00. AT NINE, THE DORM SUPERVISOR LOCKS ALL THE DOORS.
WHY THREE?
THAT'S THE PRACTICAL LIMIT WHEN YOU LIVE IN A DORM.
IF YOU SEE A TON OF GIRLS, LIKE YOU-KNOW-WHO, IT DEFEATS THE PURPOSE
LOOK WHO'S TALKING
IF YOU'RE LATE, YOU GET IN TROUBLE AND THE INFRACTION IS WRITTEN UP.
GET CAUGHT TOO MANY TIMES, YOUR PARENTS ARE CONTACTED, AND YOU MAY GET KICKED OUT OF THE DORM.
TO GET AROUND THIS, STUDENTS ASK THEIR FRIENDS TO LEND A HAND IF THEY KNOW THEY'LL BE COMING BACK LATE.
THEIR FRIENDS UNLOCK A WINDOW IN A SECLUDED AREA SO THEY CAN SNEAK IN LATER
GEEZ...
WHY SHOULD I HELP SHINOBU WITH HIS NIGHT OUT WITH HIS GIRLS?
And for just one girl's magazine
NEXT TIME, I'LL KEEP IT LOCKED.

AM I SUPPOSED TO GET SURPRISED?
YOU'RE NOT FAZED BY THIS AT ALL.
OH.
A FAVOR?
YOU SEEM LIKE A REASONABLE MAN, SO I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR.
WELL, THEN! SIR!
AIN'T THAT SOMETHING?
CAN YOU HELP ME OUT?
I NEED TO FIND IT AND TAKE IT BACK BEFORE IT CAUSES ANY TROUBLE.
...AND I DROPPED ONE OF MY CONTAINERS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD.
I MAKE HUMANOID MODELS...
THE EARTHLING HUMANOID MODEL THAT WAS IN THE CONTAINER IS MISSING.
IT LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE YOU!
IT LOOKS LIKE ME?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE!

...?
KIEE— KIEE— KIEE!
KIEE— KIEE!
KIEE— KIEE— KIEE!
KIEE!
KIEE! KIEE!
KIE?
...BUT WHAT IS THIS THING?
LOOKS FAMILIAR...
WELL, AROUND HERE...
I'M JUST A HUMBLE LITTLE...
...YOU GUYS WOULD CALL ME AN ALIEN!
WHOOPS. THIS GUY'S THE REAL ONE.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME SORRY ABOUT THAT.

HUH
WHO LEFT THIS OPEN?
MAN!
KREK
AHA!
I KNEW IT!
CRAP! IT'S SHINOBU!
DID YOU JUST GET BACK?
SH... SHINOBU ?
I'M INNO-CENT! I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING!
STAAAAR
STARE
?

THANK YOU, SIR!
I'LL HELP YOU.
THIS MODEL WON THE BEST DESIGN AWARD IN THE CRAFTSMANSHIP CATEGORY!
GEEZ... WHERE IS THAT THING PUTZING AROUND?
I CAN'T REALLY SHOW MYSELF IN FRONT OF EARTHLINGS...
YOU'RE A GREAT HELP.
WHAT?
IT CAN WALK ON ITS OWN?
SHEESH, IT'S COLD.
IS A WINDOW OPEN?
CREAK

TUP
?
HFF
HFF
HFF
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
?
TOK
TOK
BASH
SHINOBU ?

SH ...
SHI-NOBU?
SHINOBU, YOU DID THIS?
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!
DID YOU DO SOME-THING TO HIM?
BAH
WHAT THE...?
AAAH!
FLICK
SHINOBU! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
GRP
W... WHAT'S GOING ON...?
SQUEEZE
UM
ER... PLEASE STOP?

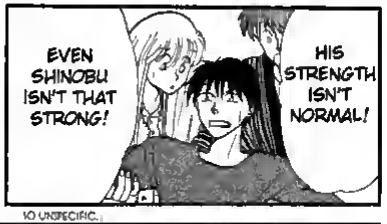
SLAM
BAM BAM
MIT-SURU!
MIT-SURU!
HUH?
GYAAA! I'M SORRY FOR WHATEVER!!
SAY WHAT?
HUH?
JUST COME! HURRY!
DA DA DA
AAA! GYAAA!
BETTER CHEW OUT SHINOBU TOMORROW.
THEY'RE SO NOISY ...
TOK TOK
SEE?
IT'S NOT AT THAT LEVEL ANYMORE!
SHINOBU ALWAYS ACTS WEIRD.
DAKDAKDA

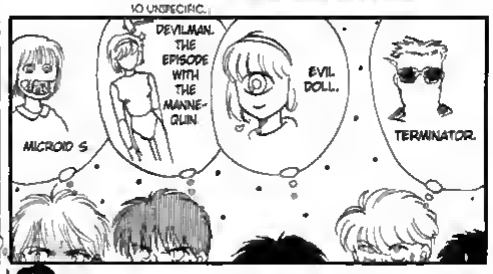
WAIT A MINUTE.
THIS GUY ...
HE'S NOT SHINOBU.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?
DO SOMETHING!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WE CAN COUNT ON!
SLAM
TURN
MAYBE IT'S NORIYUKI HIGASHIYAMA.
POSE
DOES HE HAVE A TWIN BROTHER?
WHAT?
HUH?
How can you tell?
THEN WHO IS IT?
WHO ARE YOU?
HEY.
AT LEAST HE'S GOT A SENSE OF HUMOR
COME TO THINK OF IT, HIS SKIN SEEMS A BIT DARKER ...

AAA!
CRSH!
CRSH!
AAA-
NO.
I JUST HAVE A BAD FEELING ...
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
HUH?
SO HOW DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE UP FOR THIS?
LET'S DO IT!
IF IT'S NOT, WE CAN HANDLE HIM!
IT'S PAY-BACK TIME!
GEEZ... WHERE AM I GONNA SLEEP TONIGHT?
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING?
SOME-ONE STOP HIM!
GSH
NO WAY!
WHAT IF IT IS SHINO-BU?
WHY DON'T YOU?

I AM ...
... HUMAN.
I am human.
I am human.
AAUGH!
HE'S NOT HUMAN!
EXACTLY!
SO ...
...IT'S PROBABLY IN THIS AREA?

2) SHINOBU IS SLEEP-WALKING.
3) SOMEONE IS CONTROLLING SHINOBU.
4) THAT'S SHINOBU'S LIVING GHOST.
5) THAT'S NOT SHINOBU.
1) IT'S A BAD JOKE BY SHINOBU.





EXPLANATION HIS MEMORY OF BREAKING HIS CONTAINER DOOR OPEN HAS AFFECTED HIS PSYCHE.

ARE YOU SURE, THEN?
CHATTER
HEY ...
SHINOBU, WHAT'S...
I'M TALKING ABOUT THIS.
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY TO FIRE IT?
... THAT THING ?
NO WORRIES!
GO AHEAD! I HAVE PLENTY OF DUPLICATE COPIES!
GOOD.
I WOULDN'T BRING A DANGEROUS WEAPON TO AN ALIEN PLANET.
TAKE IT AWAY!
Gulp!
EWD

I'LL BASH THAT UGLY FACE IN!
WHO HAS AN UGLY FACE?
YOUR ...
AUGH! SHINOBU!
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING BROKE. THAT'S NOT GOOD.
IS THIS THE REAL ONE?
WHAT THE...?
SHINOBU?
WHOOPS.

TWITCH
THUD
SMIRK
CH... CH... CHOCO-LATE?
BOOM BOOM BOOM
GRAB
GOOD.
YOU DID A FINE JOB!
HOW'S THAT?
CLAP CLAP

BOOM!!

ER...
LUM...
YEEP
TURN
WHAT ARE YOU STANDING AROUND FOR?
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
THAT NIGHT'S EVENTS WOULD LATER BE CALLED, "THE INCIDENT WITH THE CHOCOLATE DOLL."

LUM OOO
SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE!
DRAG
DRAG
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP. YOU SAVED THE DAY!
HEY ...
THE HAND'S STILL POKING OUT...
WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY.
YES, YES!
DON'T EVER BRING THINGS LIKE THAT HERE AGAIN.

A DANGEROUS LEAGUE

What happened?
Hey,
TAK TAK
TAK TAK
SO WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
WELL ?
FOR YEARS, THE TALE WOULD BE PASSED FROM STUDENT TO STUDENT AS ONE OF THE THREE MOST BIZARRE GREENWOOD STORIES.
SOME THOUGHT IT WAS A SHARED DREAM.
It's
EVERYTHING WAS BEYOND COMPREHENSION.
ONLY ONE THING WAS CERTAIN.
YEAH...
BUT...
...THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO ASK SHINOBU.
I THINK ...
...SHINOBU TRULY WAS FEARED BY EVERYONE.
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
YOU THINK HE'D STOP IF IT WAS US?
HE DIDN'T EVEN HESITATE TO SHOOT HIMSELF IN THE FACE!

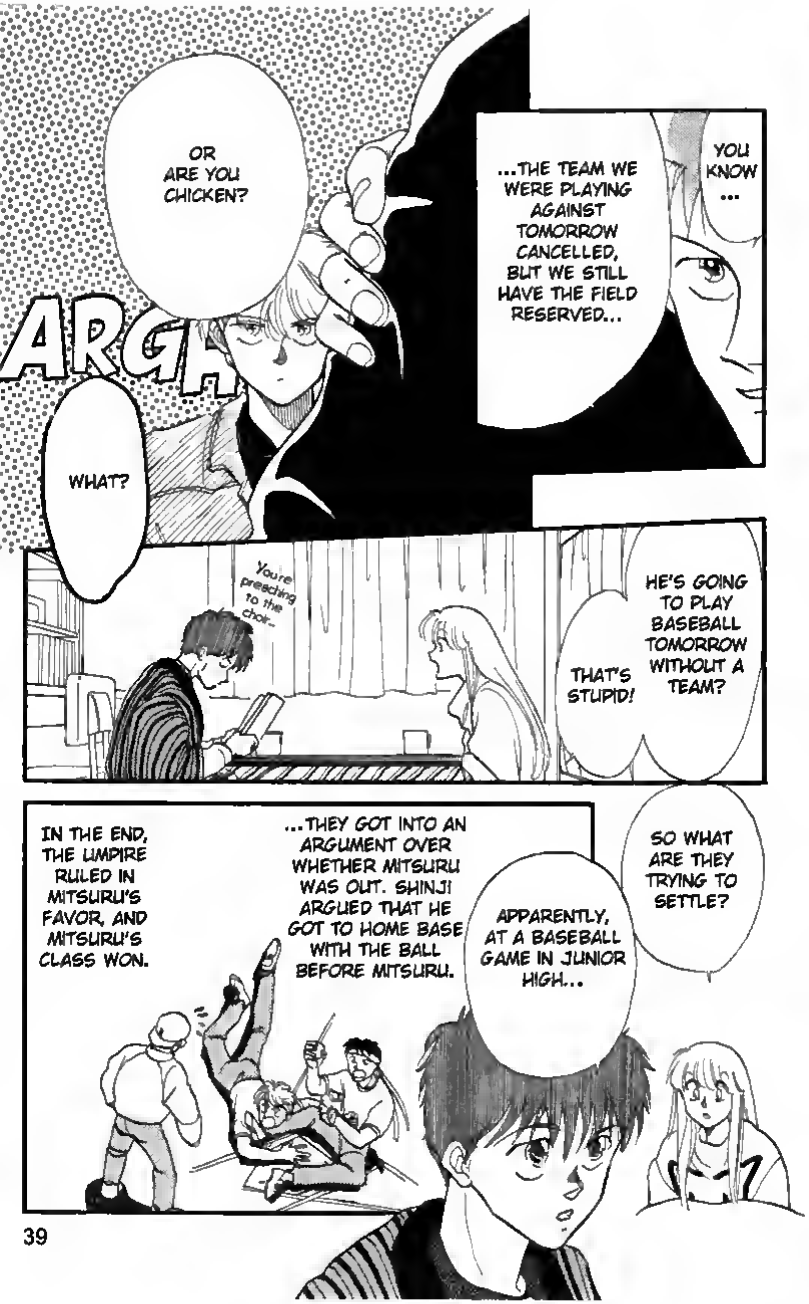
CLONED VALENTINE: THE END

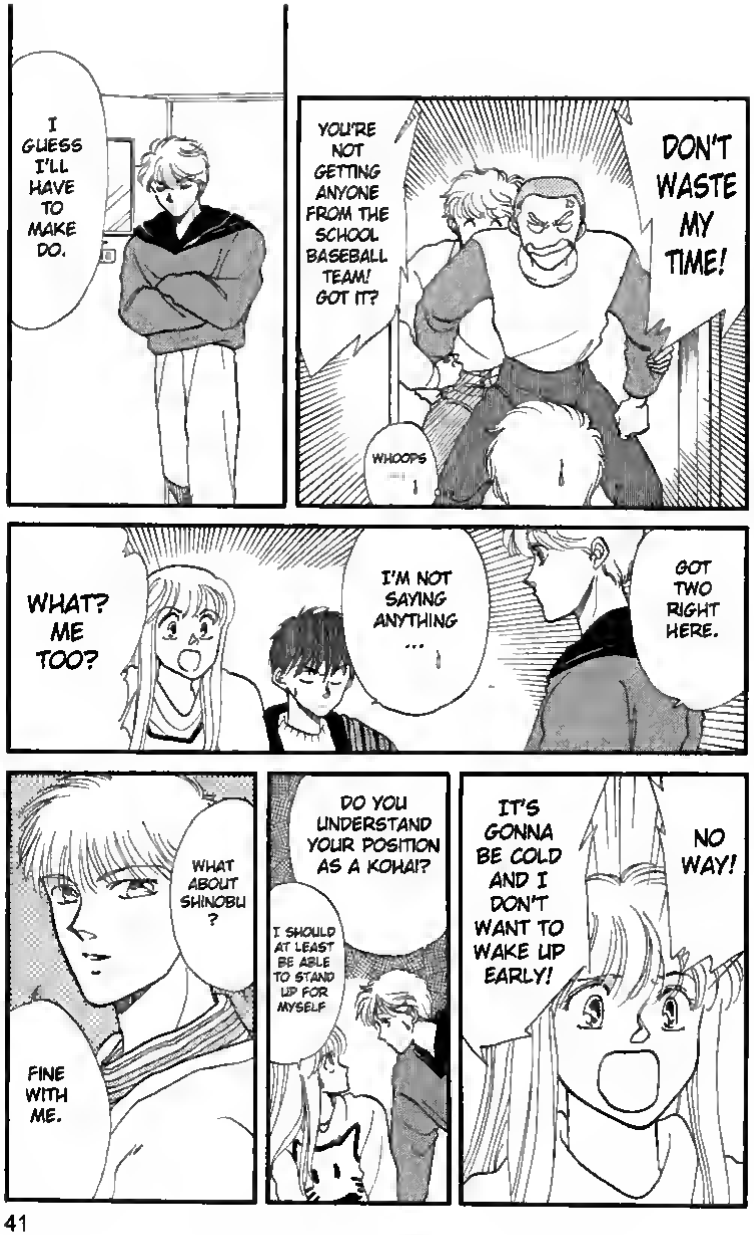
A DANGEROUS LEAGUE

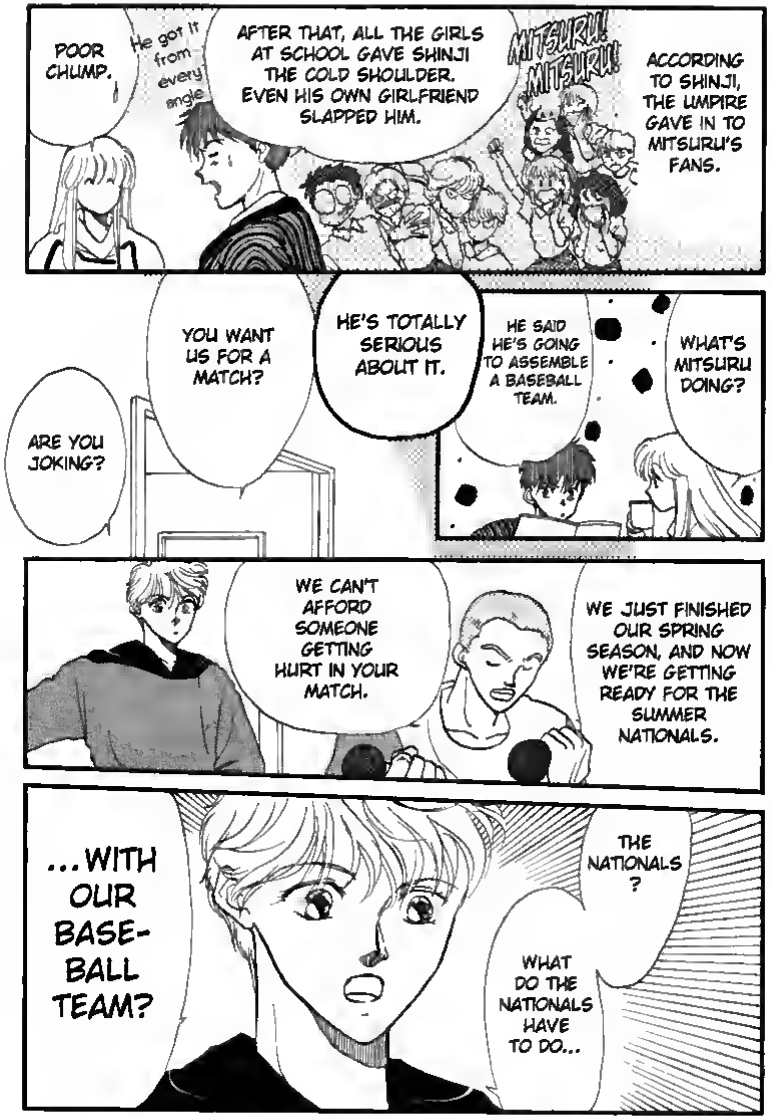
SHINJI?
MITSURU ?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AROUND HERE?
LONG TIME NO SEE!
HUH?

I SEE. SO YOUR FAMILY MOVED HERE.
YEAH. I HEARD YOUR SCHOOL WAS IN THE AREA, TOO.
THIS IS SUKA, MY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR AT THE DORM. HE'S A FIRST-YEAR.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
Yeah.
THIS IS SHINJI. WE WENT TO JUNIOR HIGH TOGETHER.
WHAT'S WITH ... ...THE UNIFORM?
OH, THIS?
I WAS ON THE SCHOOL TEAM, BUT I PUNCHED OUT THE COACH, SO...
WELL, YOUR PERSONALITY CHANGES WHEN IT COMES TO BASEBALL!
HA HA HA
I'M ON MY WAY TO PRACTICE!
I STARTED A BASEBALL TEAM!

CRACK
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...WE NEVER DID SETTLE THAT MATCH.
...?
YOU STILL REMEMBER?
OF COURSE I DO!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW HUMILIATED I WAS...
THANKS TO THAT INCIDENT, YOUR GROUPIE GIRLS HATED ME. AND I GOT SLAPPED BY MAYUMI!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WHINED! ON TOP OF THAT, YOU USED THOSE GIRLS! YOU AND YOUR DIRTY LITTLE TRICKS!
OH, YOU WHINED AND COMPLAINED!
YOU DID, TOO! STOP PLAYING DUMB!
WHEN DID I DO THAT? WHAT HOUR, MINUTE, SECOND DID I DO THAT?


ARGH
OR ARE YOU CHICKEN?
WHAT?
...THE TEAM WE WERE PLAYING AGAINST TOMORROW CANCELLED, BUT WE STILL HAVE THE FIELD RESERVED...
YOU KNOW...
You're preaching to the choir.
HE'S GOING TO PLAY BASEBALL TOMORROW WITHOUT A TEAM?
THAT'S STUPID!
IN THE END, THE UMPIRE RULED IN MITSURU'S FAVOR, AND MITSURU'S CLASS WON.
...THEY GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT OVER WHETHER MITSURU WAS OUT. SHINJI ARGUED THAT HE GOT TO HOME BASE WITH THE BALL BEFORE MITSURU.
APPARENTLY, AT A BASEBALL GAME IN JUNIOR HIGH...
SO WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO SETTLE?


I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE DO.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANYONE FROM THE SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM! GOT IT?
DON'T WASTE MY TIME!
WHOOPS
WHAT? ME TOO?
I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING ...
GOT TWO RIGHT HERE.
WHAT ABOUT SHINOBU?
FINE WITH ME.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION AS A KOHAI?
I SHOULD AT LEAST BE ABLE TO STAND UP FOR MYSELF
IT'S GONNA BE COLD AND I DON'T WANT TO WAKE UP EARLY!
NO WAY!


POOR CHUMP.
He got it from every angle.
AFTER THAT, ALL THE GIRLS AT SCHOOL GAVE SHINJI THE COLD SHOULDER. EVEN HIS OWN GIRLFRIEND SLAPPED HIM.
MITSURU! MITSURU!
ACCORDING TO SHINJI, THE UMPIRE GAVE IN TO MITSURU'S FANS.
ARE YOU JOKING?
YOU WANT US FOR A MATCH?
HE'S TOTALLY SERIOUS ABOUT IT.
HE SAID HE'S GOING TO ASSEMBLE A BASEBALL TEAM.
WHAT'S MITSURU DOING?
WE CAN'T AFFORD SOMEONE GETTING HURT IN YOUR MATCH.
WE JUST FINISHED OUR SPRING SEASON, AND NOW WE'RE GETTING READY FOR THE SUMMER NATIONALS.
...WITH OUR BASE-BALL TEAM?
WHAT DO THE NATIONALS HAVE TO DO...
THE NATIONALS?

Mitsuru 5
Hasukawa Shun 4
Morinaga Okazaki 7
Tochizawa 7
Furusawa 2
Kamegaki 3
THAT'S EIGHT.
I WANT AT LEAST TWO MORE PEOPLE...
I HAVE NOTHING PLANNED, SO SURE.
SCORE!
WE NEED SOMEONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO THROW A BALL ...
HMM...
HEY, WHAT ABOUT A PITCHER?
CAN I PLAY TOO?
HUH?
HELLO ...
NOK NOK
ARE YOU REALLY PLAYING BASEBALL TOMORROW?
YEAH.

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO RECRUIT SOME PLAYERS.
YOU'RE SO USELESS WITH TEAM SPORTS.
HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU NEED TO PLAY, AGAIN?
BASEBALL MATCH? WHEN?
TOMORROW?
FINE...
BECAUSE THE AUTHOR DOESN'T KNOW THE RULES TO SOCCER AND RUGBY.
PLUS, I'D HAVE TO DRAW ELEVEN PEOPLE FOR SOCCER AND FIFTEEN FOR RUGBY!
IT'S SOCCER AND RUGBY SEASON.
BASE-BALL'S OFF-SEASON NOW.
WHY BASE-BALL?
OKAY?
I'LL DO IT ...
...BUT I'M TELLING YOU RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT GREAT AT IT.
HOW ABOUT IT? 1,000 YEN FOR A GAME.
DO YOU HAVE A BATTING AVERAGE OF OVER 40%?

REGIONS FACING THE SEA OF JAPAN WILL GET SOME SNOW ..
..AND REGIONS FACING THE PACIFIC OCEAN WILL HAVE EXTREMELY COLD WEATHER.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE PLAYED BASE-BALL!
WHAT-EVER.
BETTER GO BORROW A GLOVE!
AND NOW THE WEATHER.
BUT COLD WINDS WILL DESCEND FROM THE NORTH.
TOMORROW THE HIGH-PRESSURE AIR FROM THE WEST AND LOW-PRESSURE AIR FROM THE EAST WILL CANCEL EACH OTHER. FOR THE MOST PART, IT'LL BE BEAUTIFUL

I WAS ON A BASEBALL TEAM UNTIL EIGHTH GRADE.
I WAS ON THE SECOND-STRING TEAM, BUT I WAS A PITCHER.
WHAT WAS YOUR POSITION?
REALLY? YES!
YOU?
I played ice hockey in the winter.
GOOD. WE'VE GOT OUR TEAM.
I WAS SICK A LOT WHEN I WAS A KID, SO MY PARENTS MADE ME GO OUT FOR SPORTS TO GET STRONGER
SURE ...
FUJI-KAKE!
YOU'RE COMING, RIGHT?
NYA HA HA
JUST YOU WAIT, SHINJI!
I'M STILL A BIT WORRIED, BUT WE HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS.

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.
COME ON! LET'S GET STARTED!

THERE'S NO ANNOYING PEANUT GALLERY TODAY, SO WE CAN SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
THAT'S MY LINE.
YOU'D BETTER NOT BACK OUT!

MAKE IT UP TO ME LATER
SORRY I LOST IT.
SE! GO! ZE!
WHEN YOU HEAR BASEBALL PLAYERS SCREAMING, "SE! GO! ZE!" THEY'RE SAYING, "LET'S GO!"
THEY'RE SAYING "LET'S GO!"

BWA HA HA HA HA
Ooo, warm.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HIS MEN RESPECT HIM, EITHER.

WOOC

SHINK
SHING

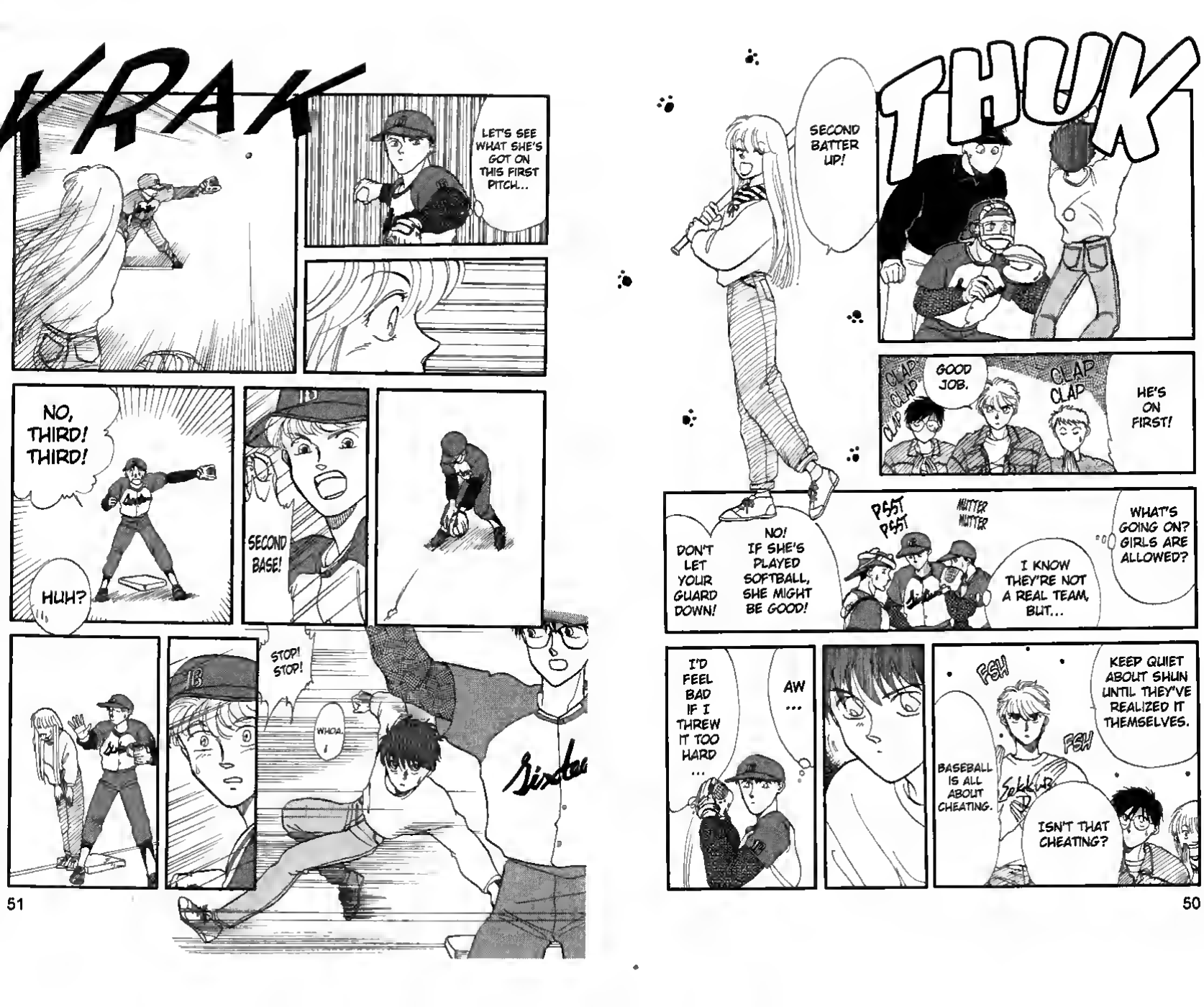
IT'S... COOOOOLD ....

THAT'S RIGHT!
GUMS
KNEES
SHIVER SHIVER

YOU'LL LIVE TO WIN ANOTHER DAY, SHINOBU.
I'M GOING HOME ...
TOK
TOK
COME ON! YOU'LL WARM UP ONCE YOU GET MOVING!

YOU'RE OUT!
TNK
STRIKE! YOU'RE OUT!
YOU NEED TO LET 'EM HIT MORE, OR THE REST OF US WILL FREEZE TO DEATH.
WATANABE! YOU'RE AMAZING!
NICE ARM!
THREE OUTS! CHANGE!
KRT
GET TO FIRST BASE!
YOU CAN DO IT! YOU'RE THE FIRST BATTER!
DRAT!
GTT GTT
MAKE SURE PEOPLE DON'T SEE YOU!
FUJI-KAKE!
WARM HIM UP WHILE WE'RE ON THE OFFENSE.
UM ... SURE.

YOU GUYS READY?
HUH? YEAH!
PLAY BALL!
RELAX AND DO YOUR THING!
OKAY!
ZWA
PSH
STRIKE!
HUH ...
THEY HAVE A PRETTY GOOD PITCHER.


THUK
SECOND BATTER UP!
CLAP CLAP CLAP
GOOD JOB.
CLAP CLAP
HE'S ON FIRST!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN!
NO! IF SHE'S PLAYED SOFTBALL, SHE MIGHT BE GOOD!
PSST PSST
MUTTER MUTTER
I KNOW THEY'RE NOT A REAL TEAM, BUT...
WHAT'S GOING ON? GIRLS ARE ALLOWED?
I'D FEEL BAD IF I THREW IT TOO HARD ...
AW ...
FSH
FSH
KEEP QUIET ABOUT SHUN UNTIL THEY'VE REALIZED IT THEMSELVES.
BASEBALL IS ALL ABOUT CHEATING.
SAKKUN
ISN'T THAT CHEATING?
KRAK
LET'S SEE WHAT SHE'S GOT ON THIS FIRST PITCH...
NO, THIRD! THIRD!
HUH?
SECOND BASE!
STOP! STOP!
WHOA.
Sixtee

SIXTEENS 0
GREENWOOD 4
FIRST INNING: GREENWOOD LEADS, 4 TO 0!
No way!
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GREENWOOD'S LACK OF OUTFIELD EXPERIENCE, THE SIXTEENS KEPT THE RUNS COMING.
BUT BY THE SECOND INNING, THE SIXTEENS' PITCHER WAS ON A ROLL AND HAD GREENWOOD AT BAY.
YEAH.
YOU OKAY?
BY THE SIXTH INNING, THE SCORE WAS FOUR TO THREE.

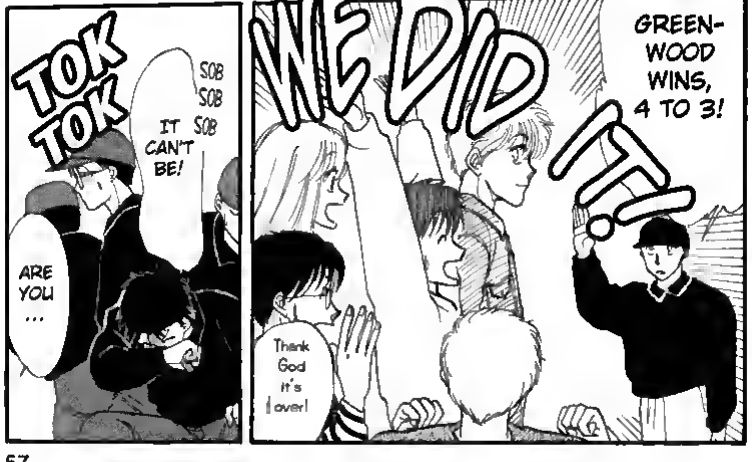
Sokkuri Dolls
Lucky hit!
GOOD JOB!
A HIT AND RUN?
DON'T THINK YOU'VE WON YET!
KRAK
KK
KK
SPLASH
9

OUT!
OUT!
Got it!
CHANGE!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I THINK I SPRAINED SOMETHING.
OW OW OW!
THAT'S RIGHT ...
YEAH
YOU ALL RIGHT, OKAZAKI ?
EVERYONE'S GETTING STIFF FROM THE COLD.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE CHANGING PLAYERS.
OW!
THAT MEANS ...
WE HAVE NO MORE PLAYERS.
THEY HAVE ONE MORE.
WE'RE ON THE LAST INNING AND WE'RE WINNING.

THUD
PSST
NO WAY... CAN'T BE..
HEY... IS SHE A GUY?
PSST
WHO
AAAUGH!
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHOA!
TUNK
HUH? I'M COVERING ?
TOCHI-ZAWA! YOU'RE ON SECOND!

SLUMP
TNK TNK TNK
TEN!
ONE! TWO! THREE!
DOWN! I MEAN, HE'S OUT!

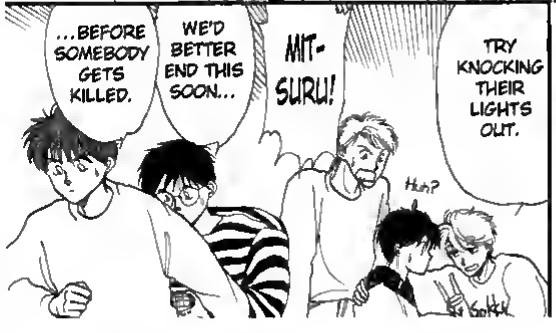
THE SIXTEENS ARE DOWN TO LESS THAN NINE PLAYERS.


TOK TOK
SOB SOB SOB
IT CAN'T BE!
ARE YOU ...
WE DID IT!
GREEN-WOOD WINS, 4 TO 3!
Thank God it's over!

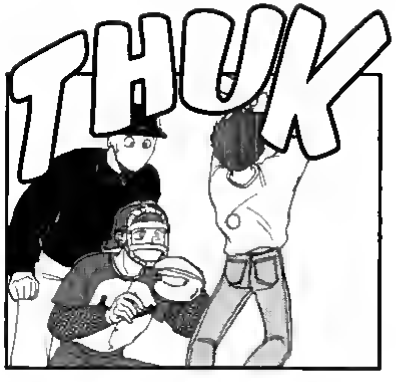
DOOM
WHOEVER RUNS OUT OF PLAYERS FIRST LOSES!

BASH
CRASH

I PULLED A TENDON!
SHUT UP!
YOU CAN STILL PLAY!
THAT'S NOTHING!


...BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS KILLED.
WE'D BETTER END THIS SOON...
MIT-SURU!
TRY KNOCKING THEIR LIGHTS OUT.
Huh?

ONE MORE TO GO!
HEH HEH HEH
GOOD ... GOOD ...



HURRY UP AND MAKE UP WITH HIM...
...SO WE CAN GET TO THE AFTER-PARTY!
UH...
...HAPPY NOW?
MAYUMI?
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS BROKE UP!
...BUT THE NEXT DAY, I APOLOGIZED.
WE GOT INTO A FIGHT THAT DAY...
WHY WOULD WE BREAK UP?
HERE YOU GO.
Who's throwing the best tailgate?
Where do you want to go?
PASS ME THE BAT.
HEY.
I ONLY SLAPPED HIM TO SAVE FACE.
MAYUMI ...
I'M STILL A MITSURU FAN, BUT I'M IN LOVE WITH SHINJI.

A DANGEROUS LEAGUE: THE END

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

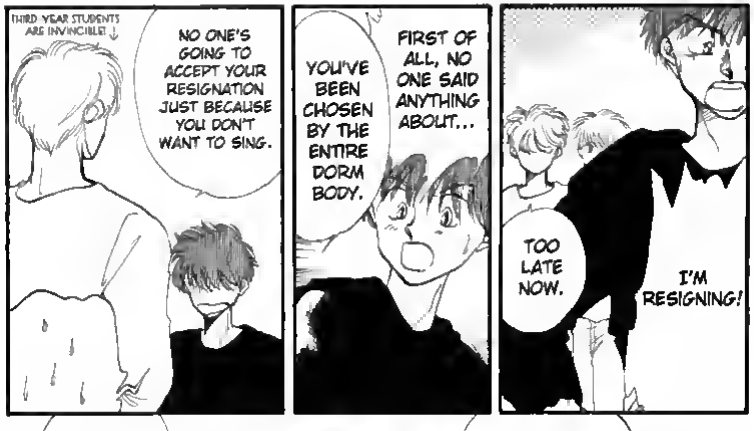
STARTING THIS ISSUE, GREEN-WOOD...
BEFORE WE BEGIN...
..I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCE-MENT.
...A GRADE!
DECISION
...IS MOVING UP...
A
SLAM
THUNK
WOBBLE
SO...
WITH THAT SAID...

RUN!
YOUTH!

I'D BE WORRIED...
HE IS?
MITSURU'S STILL GONNA BE RUNNING THE SHOW ANYWAY, RIGHT?
YOU KIDDING ME?
IT'LL BE FINE. MITSURU WILL HELP HIM OUT!
SLAM
IT'S A CONSPIRACY!!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO THINK SO NEGATIVELY?
IF THIS ISN'T BULLYING, WHAT IS?
BUT SOMEHOW THE TWO OF THEM CONVINCED EVERYBODY IN THE DORM!
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE MORE QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB THAN ME AND SOME PEOPLE WERE TOTALLY AGAINST ME!
YAAY
HE'S THE MAN!
CLAP
OUR STORY BEGINS THE DAY BEFORE THE LAST DAY OF THE THIRD SEMESTER.
...CONCLUDES THIS YEAR'S RESIDENTS' MEETINGS.
...AND KAZUYA HASUKAWA WAS NAMED THE NEW DORM HEAD.
AND THAT...
THE RESIDENTS' MEETINGS, SEPARATED BY CLASS YEAR, WERE HELD THAT DAY AT GREENWOOD...
HE REALLY DIDN'T LOOK HAPPY...
IF MITSURU APPOINTED HIM, HE CAN'T REFUSE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT PICKED.
TOK TOK
EVERYONE DISMISSED!
IT'S SUCH A HIERARCHICAL SYSTEM.

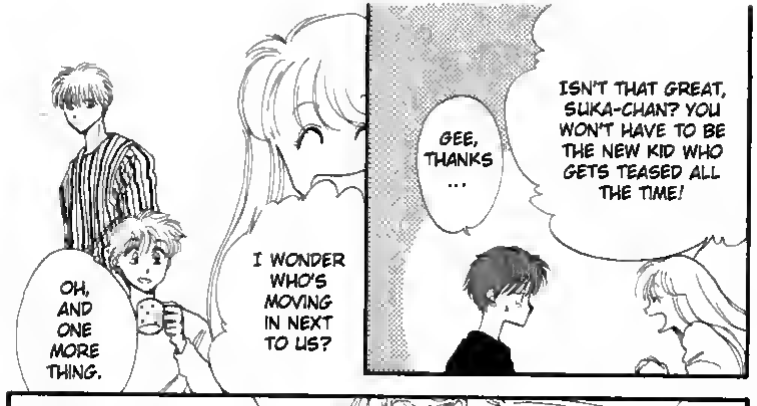
I WASN'T THERE LAST YEAR...
HUH?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU SHOULD BE FINE. YOU SAW US DO IT LAST YEAR.
YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL!
IT'S SO LONG AGO I FORGOT ABOUT IT!
THE DORM SUPERVISOR AND I WILL HELP YOU OUT. WE'LL HAVE TO FILL ALL OTHER POSITIONS FROM THE CURRENT SECOND-YEARS.
THAT'S YOUR JOB, HASU-KAWA.
OH!
B... BUT...
BETTER GET CRACKING.
YOUR FIRST JOB AS THE NEW DORM HEAD.
SMILE
THAT MEANS WHEN THE FIRST-YEARS COME IN...
...WE'RE GOING TO BE SEMPAI!

THEY'RE PASSING ON THE TORCH.
THEY MIGHT NOT ACT LIKE IT, BUT THEY'RE COUNTING ON YOU.
ALREADY GRADUATED AND NO LONGER LIVING AT THE DORM. CURRENTLY AT A COLLEGE IN THE CITY AND WORKING PART-TIME AT A LIQUOR STORE
GRANTED, THE THINGS THEY DO WOULD BRING ANYONE DOWN...
TOK
FURU-SAWA-SEMPAI!
DON'T YOU THINK THEY HAVE A GOOD EYE FOR PEOPLE?
Goodies!
RUSTLE
YOU... YOU THINK SO?
BUT THEN WHY...
WELL... YEAH..
HMM
...DID THEY CHOOSE ME?
NEW STUDENTS WILL START COMING TO THE DORM TWO DAYS BEFORE THAT.
THAT MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO BE BACK A DAY BEFORE THEM.
THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS HAVE THEIR OPENING CEREMONY ON THE EIGHTH. THE SEVENTH IS THE OFFICIAL START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.


THIRD YEAR STUDENTS ARE INVINCIBLE!!
NO ONE'S GOING TO ACCEPT YOUR RESIGNATION JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO SING.
FIRST OF ALL, NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT...
YOU'VE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE ENTIRE DORM BODY.
TOO LATE NOW.
I'M RESIGNING!

OF COURSE I DID.
DID YOU DO IT, MITSURU?
ME? ER... IT WENT A LITTLE SOMETHING...
WHAT DID YOU SING?

AAAUGH!
WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
♪ Yeah yeah yeah! ♪ Having fun yet?
...LIKE THIS!
HEY, EVERYBODY! READY TO GO? ♪♪
HE—Y!!


OH, AND ONE MORE THING.
I WONDER WHO'S MOVING IN NEXT TO US?
GEE, THANKS ...
ISN'T THAT GREAT, SUKA-CHAN? YOU WON'T HAVE TO BE THE NEW KID WHO GETS TEASED ALL THE TIME!

ONCE ALL THE NEW STUDENTS ARE HERE, WE HAVE A MEETING. AT THE FIRST MEETING, THE NEW DORM HEAD IS INTRODUCED...
TAP
THIS IS A DORM TRADITION.

...AND HE HAS TO SING A SONG.
SO START THINKING ABOUT IT!
I TOLD YOU, IT'S A DORM TRADITION.
WHAT THE ...?
WH ...

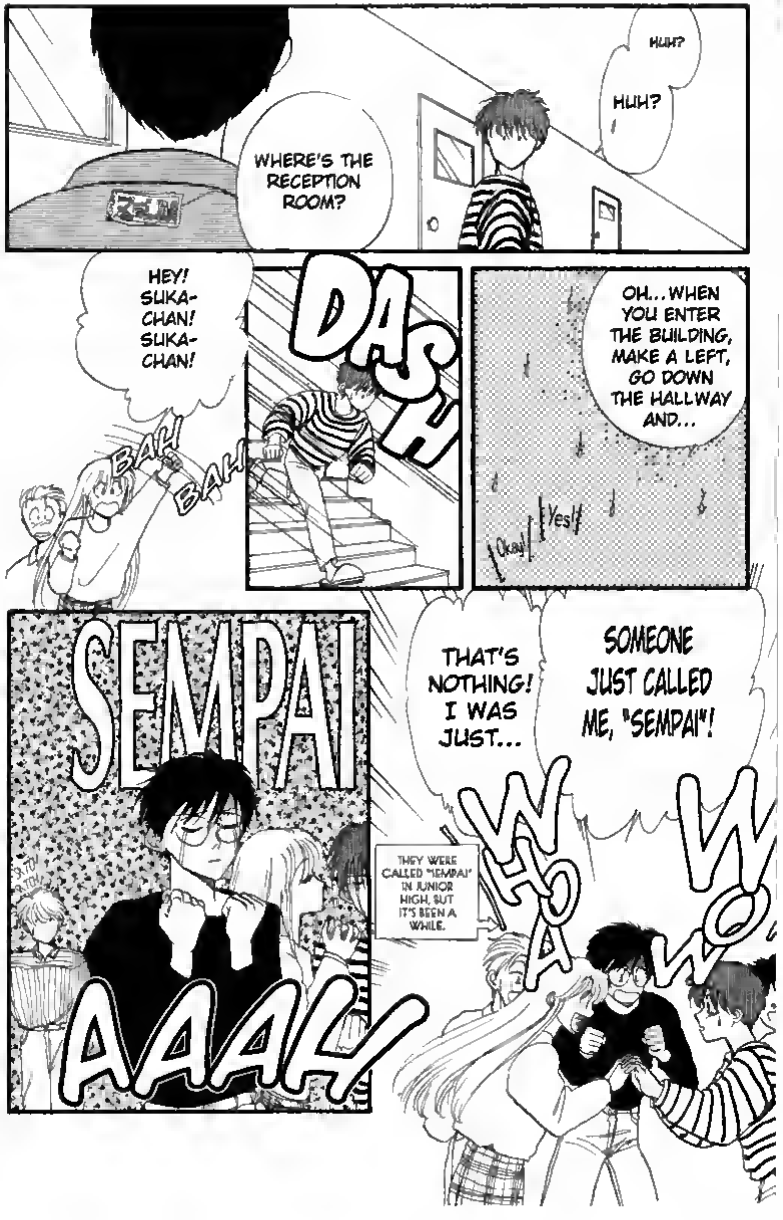
THERE!
WE SHOULD BE SET NOW.
WELCOME
HASU-KAWA! YOUR ARM-BAND!
THIS IS HOW WE WELCOMED YOU GUYS LAST YEAR.
I'M KIND OF NERVOUS!
DON'T SAY THAT TO HIM RIGHT NOW.
?
IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT ON, PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE A FIRST-YEAR.
WAAH...

WHAT'S WRONG, KAZUYA?
AH
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVER FILL THEIR SHOES!
I THINK THEY'RE JUST HAVING FUN TOYING WITH ME!
N... NOTHING! DON'T MIND ME!
IT'S NOTHING!
ARE YOU SURE?
SIX MONTHS
SHUF
SPRING BREAK
?
I WONDER ...
...IF I'VE CHANGED SINCE THEN?
RECEP
NEW STUDE
WELC

HELLO ?
GOOD MORNING!
SMILE
HERE YOU GO. ♡
ARE YOU A NEW STUDENT? HERE YOU GO.
OH.
COME ON! GET TO WORK!
Good morning!
GOOD MORNING!
WAH WAH

LOOK!
A FIRST-YEAR!
YUP, FRESH MEAT.
THEY LOOK REALLY YOUNG.
WELL, THEY WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH UNTIL YESTERDAY.
EVERYTHING ELSE IS WRITTEN IN THE MANUAL, SO MAKE SURE YOU READ IT.
OKAY.
ALSO, EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN SENT AHEAD IS IN THE RECEPTION ROOM. PICK UP ANYTHING THAT BELONGS TO YOU.
PLEASE.
RIGHT.
OH, SEMPAI!
SEE YOU ...

THEY LOOK ADORABLE.
FIRST-YEARS ARE SO CUTE!
THEY'RE ACTING SHY.
I'M SURE THEY WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND IF YOU TOLD THEM THAT.
AAUGH!
HASU-KAWA!
YOU WERE A WISEASS FROM THE START.
WERE WE LIKE THAT, TOO?
WELL? YOU CAN HANDLE IT, RIGHT?
WE'LL PROBABLY SEE BLOOD EVERY DAY FOR A WHILE ...
YOU GET BLOODY NOSES FROM STRESS.


HUH?
HUH?
WHERE'S THE RECEPTION ROOM?
HEY! SUKA-CHAN! SUKA-CHAN!
BAH! BAH!
DASH
OH... WHEN YOU ENTER THE BUILDING, MAKE A LEFT, GO DOWN THE HALLWAY AND...
Okay!
Yes!
SEMPAI
AAAH
THAT'S NOTHING! I WAS JUST...
SOMEONE JUST CALLED ME, "SEMPAI"!
THEY WERE CALLED "SEMPAI" IN JUNIOR HIGH, BUT IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
WHOA WHOA

SHING☆
Look
A transfer student?
I WONDER IF HE SPEAKS JAPANESE.
THIS IS YOUR ROOM.
I'M KAZUYA HASU-KAWA.
I LIVE NEXT DOOR TO YOU.
...
OKAY...
SHING SHING
I AM Fred Serme
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
FRED'S ROOMMATE HASN'T ARRIVED YET.
...BUT THERE'S STILL ONE PERSON LEFT.
ALL THE NEW STUDENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE SIGNED IN BY NOW...

NOT YET. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
BY THE WAY, GOT ANY NEW NEIGH-BORS?
JUST ONE. HIS NAME IS KANEKO.
I'LL LOOK HIM UP TOMORROW.
I SEE. I SHOULD HAVE CHECKED OUT THE NAME, AT LEAST.
HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO HANDLE THIS?
THIS IS PATHETIC!
GET WITH IT, KAZUYA HASU-KAWA!
GO.
SHOVE
A...
...GAIJIN.
OUT OF ALL THE FIRST-YEARS, HE'S THE ONE MOVING IN NEXT TO HASUKAWA...
YES.
ARE ...
ARE YOU FRED SERME?

COME. COME PRAY WITH US.
DASH!
UM, SEMPAI ... OVER THERE ...
STOP PREYING ON THE NEW STUDENTS!
ARE YOU A BUDDHIST SPY AS WELL?
SEMPAI! PLEASE DON'T TRY TO PRESSURE SOMEONE INTO CONVERTING!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
KANEDA HAS GRADUATED
WHAT?
HASU-KAWA! SOMEBODY TOOK THIS GUY'S STUFF BY ACCIDENT!
BUT BEFORE THAT...
AT 9:00, WE'LL TELL THE NEW STUDENTS TO GATHER IN THE MEETING ROOM.
SHOULD WE DO A PA ANNOUNCE-MENT?

WH ...
SORRY I'M LATE! I'M NOYAMA!
OH, THE KID NAMED NOYAMA ...
SLAM
OH ...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
What? No way!
Are you really a guy?
Yup!
THE STATION ATTENDEES CAME AND BROKE IT UP, BUT THEN THEY ASSUMED I WAS A RUNAWAY BECAUSE OF MY LUGGAGE.
I'VE BEEN AT THE STATION ALL DAY.
I'M TOTALLY FINE.
Don't know about him, though.
OH, MY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU HURT?
SOME PUNK TRIED TO START A FIGHT 'CUZ MY BAG BUMPED HIM.
What?
N...
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THAT'S ALL OF THEM.

AS A RYOKUTO STUDENT AND A RESIDENT OF GREENWOOD DORM, MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER THAT.
IT'S UP TO YOU TO MAKE THE NEXT FEW YEARS MEANINGFUL AND FUN.
WOW ...
OH!
OKAY!
NOW LET'S HEAR A WORD FROM THE NEW DORM HEAD.
A RESIDENT OF GREENWOOD DORM..
UM ..
I...
I'M HASU-KAWA!
IT'S GOING TO BE HARD FILLING THEIR SHOES...
UM ...
WELL ...
NOW ...
HE'S IN ROOM 210.
HE ACTS LIKE HE'S GETTING MARRIED OR SOME-THING...
Thank you!!
...BUT I HOPE TO DO MY BEST!

CHATTER
CHATTER
SEE?
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO RUN THINGS... LIKE HIS.
YEAH...
HE'S DOING WELL, ISN'T HE?
THAT'S IT FOR THE RULES! ANY QUESTIONS?
MAKE SURE YOU READ THE DORM RULES AND OBEY THEM.

YAAAY
HUF
HUF
HUF
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP
CLAP

HA HA
THAT WAS TOO FUNNY! LET'S MAKE IT A TRADITION... STARTING NEXT YEAR!!
YOU'RE WEEPING WITH LAUGHTER.
YOU'RE REALLY SOME-THING!
THAT WAS GREAT!
PER-FECT!

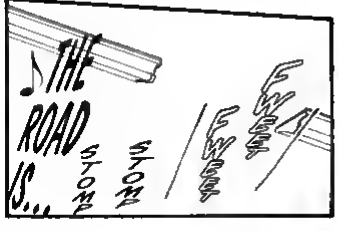
HA!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME THE DORM HEAD, START THINKING ABOUT WHICH SONG YOU WANT TO SING!
HEH HEH HEH
HUH?

BURNING IN THE HEART
WHEW
AS PER DORM TRADITION, I, KAZUYA HASUKAWA, WILL SING A SONG!
OOO...

THAT'S IT.
BOW

♪YOU CAN DO IT!
OH WHAT'

YOUR HEART


♪THE ROAD IS...
STONE
STONE
EVER
EVER

RUN!
YOUTH!

Do the second verse!
Second verse!
It's too short!
Sing it! Sing it!
Woo!

CRASH!
KHUD
WHAT?
HEY...
HUH?
WHAT THE...
We're divvying it up!
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!
Give it back!
WHAT?
I'M TAKING THIS MONEY!
IT'S GOING INTO THE DORM ACCOUNT! GOT IT?
HEY
HEY
GRA

CK
HEY, SUKA-CHAN!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
MAN! I SWORE I'D BE ABLE TO DODGE HIS SWING!
GYAH HAH HAH!
NICE! I WON!
YOU DUMBASS! YOU GOT SUCKERED AGAIN!
SL
THERE HE IS!
AM

THE OGRE COMES IN SPRING

SPRING HAS SPRUNG: THE END

THE OGRE COMES IN SPRING

I'D NEVER EVEN SEEN A FOREIGNER UNTIL I CAME TO THE CITY.
THAT WOKE ME UP.
THE GUY'S GIVING ME A HEART CONDITION.
MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
UM, HEY ...
GEEZ! WHO'S THE FIRST-YEAR WHO DID HIS LAUNDRY IN THE SINK AND LEFT IT?
BY THE WAY, I HEARD AN EAR-PIERCING SCREAM COMING FROM YOUR ROOM THIS MORNING.
SLAM
HEY ...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE STILL HALF-ASLEEP.
Kisaragi-san?
MORNING, KISARAGI-SAN!
THUS THE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS BEGAN TO SETTLE INTO DORM LIFE.
WRITE YOUR NAME ON IT NEXT TIME, WILL YA?
IT'S DISGUSTING! GEEZ.. I'M GONNA TAKE IT!
RESTROOM
HE CAN TELL IT'S A FIRST-YEAR'S BECAUSE IT'S BRAND-NEW.
Who's disgusting?

GYAAAAAAAA
AUGH!
FW UP
KEEP IT DOWN! IT'S STILL EARLY!
WHAT'S WRONG, SUKA-CHAN?
...

THIS IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE WE HAVE BECAUSE WE'RE YOUNG.
LISTEN. IF HIGH-SCHOOLERS DO THIS, IT'S A CRIME!
HMPH! STOP ACTING LIKE AN ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL BABY!
THE LAST SET OF FIRST-YEARS WAS UNIMPRESSIVE...
...BUT THIS YEAR WE'RE SURE TO LAND A JACKPOT LIKE THOSE TWO!
BUCK UP, OR YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE THEM WHEN THEY'RE WEARING THEIR SPRING UNIFORMS!
IT'S ALMOST TIME.
GET SOME GUTS!
Yes, sempai! We'll do our best!
HMPH.
HERE THEY COME!
AHHH!

THE NEW SEMESTER STARTED AT GREENWOOD.
AND, JUST AS IT STARTED AT GREENWOOD...
...IT STARTED AT EVERY OTHER SCHOOL.
BAM!
I FEEL LIKE WE'RE DOING SOMETHING BAD!
STOP IT!
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO TOUCH HIGH-SCHOOL STUDENTS?

HEY, SHUN.
I SEE
DON'T WORRY. THEY WON'T ATTACK YOU.
WHY DID HASU-KAWA LEAVE EARLY?
HE HAS HIS REA-SONS...

OH, YEAH. GET READY TO CRY A RIVER.
WHAT? PROFESSOR TACHIKAWA IN CLASSICS?
EEK
SHE'S THAT SCARY?

HOW WAS IT?
NOT GOOD. THIS CLASS MOVES FAST!

WAAH
WHO ARE THESE GIRLS?
?
RUN, FRED!

WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
ARRGH
UH...
SHARK
EEEK!

HE SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS.
HELP M
HMM... I SHOULD'VE WARNED THEM EARLIER.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU MADE A HUMAN SACRIFICE OF HIM.
IT'S LIKE PIRANHAS SKELETONIZING A COW

AGH!
DON'T PUT SOY SAUCE ON YOUR SALAD!
BUT TOMO-MICHI...
HUH?
WHAT?
BUT THIS TASTES STRANGE.
I BLAME MY MOTHER'S COOKING.
APPARENTLY I DON'T TASTE THINGS CORRECTLY.
She puts lotus roots and fish cakes in the curry.
TOMOMICHI NOYAMA
NOYAMA!
I'M SURE...
You'd better not be picky.
STILL, I'LL EAT ANYTHING...
...EXCEPT FERMENTED SOYBEANS.
* NOYAMA AND THE CAFETERIA LADIES WERE AT ODDS UNTIL THE DAY HE GRADUATED.
HE'S SURE TO PICK UP SOME WEIRD IDEAS ABOUT THIS COUNTRY.
It'll be a foreign affairs crisis.
HEY, I WONDER HOW LONG FRED'S GOING TO BE IN JAPAN?
...BUT IF I CAN'T TASTE, I CAN'T TASTE.
YOU'RE TOTALLY RIGHT. THEY USED TO TEAR ME UP BACK AT HOME FOR IT...
OH, WELL.
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A KANSAI MAN?

I AIN'T NEVER THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO ANOTHER FELLA FROM KUMA-MOTO.
YA SURELY DID HELP ME OUT, SEMPAI.
DRAGON
YES, SIR!
Y'ALL RIGHT?
I'll tell ya about it tonight.
Well, shucks. You can come time, any of time.
I think so?
...
ROSHINO SAN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THE KUMAMOTO DIALECT.
SUSHI PETE
WHERE ARE YOU FROM, FRED?
DINING H
ROUGH MORNING, HUH, FRED?
YES, THEY STARTLED ME.
NEXT TIME, YOU NEED TO RUN.
NOT ALL JAPANESE WOMEN ARE LIKE THAT, OKAY?
THE AUTHOR PROBABLY WANTS TO GO THERE FOR "RE-SEARCH."
WHY SINGA-PORE?
DOESN'T BOTHER ME. ♡
IS THE FOOD REALLY DIFFER-ENT?
OH.
CHOMP CHOMP
GULP

FOR THE MOST PART, THEY FIZZLE OUT OVER TIME.
BUT...
WE WERE LIKE THAT, TOO. I WAS DETERMINED TO SWITCH ROOMS.
NOW'S ABOUT THE TIME WHEN ALL THE FIGHTS BREAK OUT.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?
...WE NEED HASUKAWA TO SNAP OUT OF IT.
YEAH.
HERE.
NOK NOK
ROOM 202. UCHIDA. MOTODA.
2
TOK
TOK

WAAH WAAH
※ THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE AND THE OCEAN PEOPLE IN IWATE PREFECTURE HAVE A GENERATIONS-OLD GRUDGE AGAINST EACH OTHER.
ARRGH
ARRGH
BUT ONE'S FROM THE HILLS AND THE OTHER'S FROM THE COAST.
I THOUGHT THEY WERE FROM THE SAME PREFECTURE.
WHAT'RE THEY FIGHTING ABOUT?
YEAH.
...LET'S MAKE SURE THEY DROP A TON.
WHILE THE NEW STUDENTS' WALLETS ARE FULL...
NYA HA HAHA
NAH!
YOU GUYS ARE PLOTTING AGAINST ME!
THEN SPEAK NORMAL JAPANESE!
THAT'S WHAT I HEARD AOKI AND SAKAGUCHI SAYING.

UM... SHINO-BU?
WHAT'S WRO..
HASU-KAWA?
UZZI...
ARRR...
WHAT?
UNH...
MY FACE HURTS ...
IT'S STRANGE ...
SHINOBU! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEY!
...
SHINO-BU!
SHAKE
MY FACE... IT WON'T STOP BLEEDING...

ROOM 207. SASAKI. KATSURA.
IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?
ISN'T HE OVER THE HOAX?
HEY, IS HE ...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
211
HEAD COUNT.
NOK NOK
NAPPING. HE DOESN'T FEEL WELL.
UM... WHERE'S SHINOBU?
CHMP CHMP
HEY. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
MITSURU?
CREAK

NAAAAH
SNRF... SHUT UP...
SHI... SHI...
HAAI
HAAI
HAAI
SLAM
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ARGH! IT'S NOTHING! IT'S REALLY NOTHING !!
SHINOBU'S DEAD BODY JUST...
SHINOBU'S DEAD BODY?

SLUMP
HE'S DEAD ...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, SHINOBU?
NATURALLY ..
SOB SOB SOB
HE CAN'T BE...I... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD FROM HASUKAWA PUNCHING HIM..
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOUR FACE DIDN'T HEAL...HOW COULD IT NOT?
...I'M GOING TO MAKE HASUKAWA PAY...

HE'S SO COMPLETELY TERRIFIED HE HAS NIGHTMARES!
GOT IT?
DEAD MAN WALKING
BUT THAT'S ...
B...
IS SHINOBU-SEMPAI THAT SCARY?
BUT THE INCIDENT WAS THEIR FAULT, RIGHT?
SHINOBU IS THE SCARIEST PERSON HERE.
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO LEARN THE TRUTH.
MY DEAR FIRST-YEAR.
HEH
HEH
HEH
DOES THAT MEAN HE HAS THE MOST AUTHORITY?
YOU'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH. YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
WHAT'S SO SCARY ABOUT HIM?

IT'S LIKE THIS.
DEFINITIVE MOMENT
REMEMBER HOW SUKA-CHAN PUNCHED SHINOBU THE OTHER DAY?
AH!
SO THAT'S WHY!
BUT IT REALLY WAS RECKLESS OF HIM TO...
SHINOBU GOT EVEN... AND HE'S DESTROYED HASUKAWA! POOR GUY!
...SHINOBU HASN'T DONE ANYTHING!
SO FAR ...
YOU'RE WRONG!
BRAIN-DEB

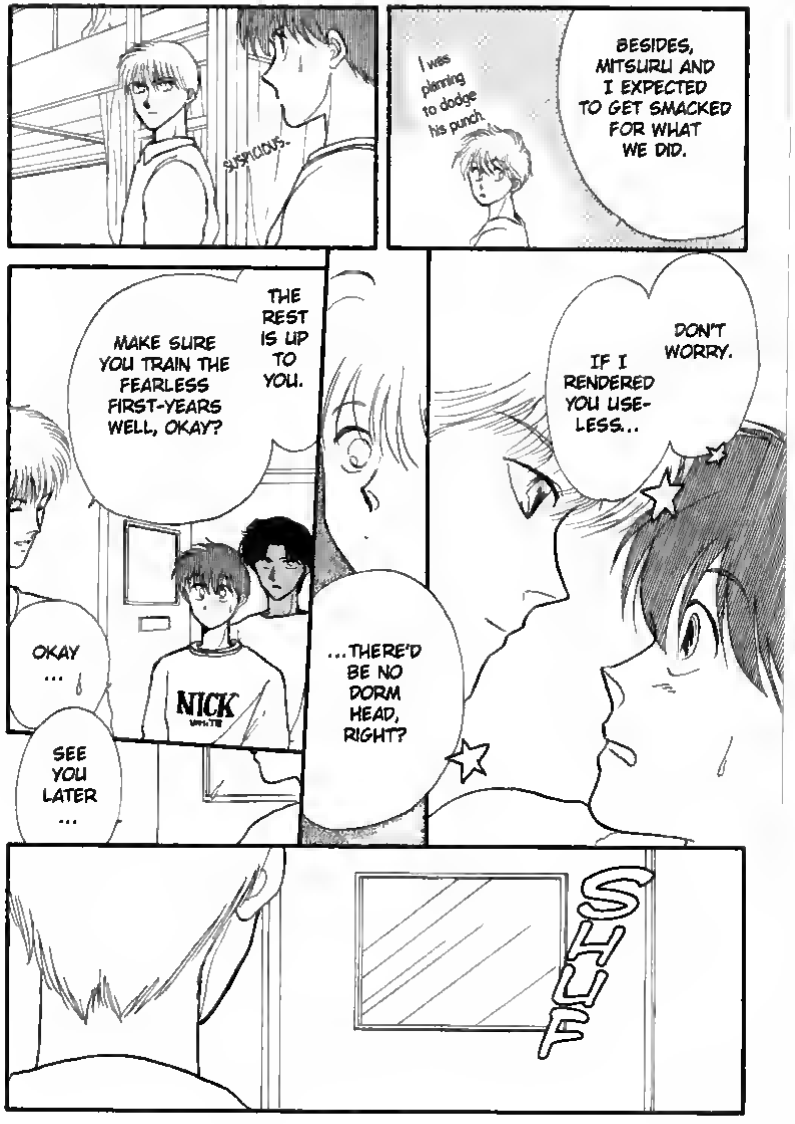
SUKA-CHAN?
WHY DON'T YOU JUST APOLOGIZE?
YOU'LL FEEL A LOT BETTER.
HEY!
IT'S HIROKO SHINO!
It's in Ueno.
Where was SHINO bozu Lake again?
...
NO.
THEN STOP ACTING SO SCARED, WILL YOU?
FRED'S HANGING OUT IN THEIR ROOM.
BESIDES ...
IT'S THEIR FAULT.
I DON'T REGRET WHAT I DID.
You've got a point...
...DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THEY'D LET THIS DROP EVEN IF I APOLOGIZED?

I SEE. THE ONE WITH THE MOST AUTHORITY RUNS THE DORM, AND THE SCARIEST GUY IS THE CLASS PRESIDENT.
AH
WHY ARE THE SCARIEST AND THE MOST POWERFUL PERSON DIFFERENT?
NO, THAT'S MITSURU.
HE'S THE ...
HE'S... UMM...
THEN WHAT'S HASUKAWA-SEMPAI?
THAT WAS THEN. WHAT ABOUT NOW?
BUT I HEARD THAT THE LAST TIME THEY GOT IN A FIGHT, MITSURU WON.
PSST
PSST
PSST
NO
...SHINO-BU!
HUF
HUF
HUF
YOSHI-NOBU!
SIGH
...THE TOUGHEST GUY!

YOU CANNOT BLAME HASUKAWA-SEMPAI GETTING MAD!
FRED!
UH...
IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO GET EVEN WITH HIM!
I WAS WONDERING WHY I HADN'T SEEN YOU LATELY.
YOU WERE AVOIDING ME BECAUSE OF THAT?
IS THAT IT?
BUT I'M TOO BUSY PASSING ON STUDENT GOVERNMENT DUTIES TO THE NEXT CLASS.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR PETTY REVENGE.
WHAT A SHAME
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WAS PLANNING ...
...TO REALLY GET EVEN WITH YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY.

...
GEEZ...
AAAUGH!!
HA... SU... KA... WA...!
HUH?
HE SAID HE'S GOING TO ASK THEM TO STOP THREATENING YOU.
FRED WENT TO CONFRONT THEM?
F...
WHOA! HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE'S UP AGAINST!

SEETHING
YOU'VE GROWN UP, SHINOBU! ♡
HAPPY?
He can't let me off that easy.
I SAW SOMETHING WRITTEN ON HIS FACE.
YOU THINK?
FEELING BETTER NOW?
YOU MUST BE RELIEVED THAT SHINOBU'S NOT MAD AT YOU!
YOU HAVE A STRONG HEART!
EVEN SHINOBU-SEMPAI SAID SO.
YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT.
WHY BE WORRIED, SEMPAI?
I...
DON'T WORRY!


SUSPICIOUS.
I was planning to dodge his punch.
BESIDES, MITSURU AND I EXPECTED TO GET SMACKED FOR WHAT WE DID.
DON'T WORRY.
IF I RENDERED YOU USE-LESS..
THE REST IS UP TO YOU.
MAKE SURE YOU TRAIN THE FEARLESS FIRST-YEARS WELL, OKAY?
OKAY ...
SEE YOU LATER ...
...THERE'D BE NO DORM HEAD, RIGHT?
SHUF

WHAT'S A SCHOOL TRIP?

AND THE TITLE OF "DORM HEAD" IS GIVEN TO THE ONE WHO BEST SHOWS THE GREENWOOD SPIRIT.
LIKE RESILIENT WEEDS, GREENWOOD RESIDENTS HAVE THE VIRTUE OF TENACITY.
I'VE NEVER HAD ANYONE SAY ANYTHING SO KIND TO ME SINCE I'VE COME TO THIS SCHOOL!
SAAAA-
I'M GOING TO BE THE BEST DORM HEAD I CAN BE!
THANK YOU, FRED!
THEY KEEP GETTING UP, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY GET STEPPED ON.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
ZZZZooo
I WANTED TO EXPERIMENT A LITTLE...
. . BUT I WONDER IF IT'LL WORK ON MITSURU. .
Hairy COMICS

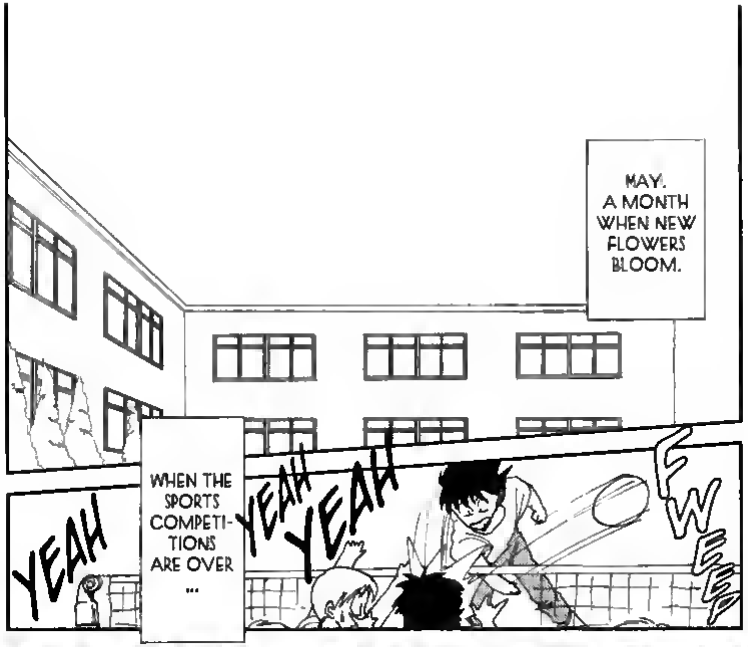
THE OGRE COMES IN SPRING: THE END

WHAT'S A SCHOOL TRIP?

FRED GOT A HAIRCUT BECAUSE EVERYONE AROUND HIM SUGGESTED HE CUT HIS HAIR A LITTLE
WHAT'S A SCHOOL TRIP?

...GAMBLE ALL NIGHT AND ARE FORCED TO SIT IN THE HALLWAY AS PUNISHMENT.
...SCARE PANSIES WHO GET SCARED EASILY...
... GET DRUNK ...
...WRESTLE IN A GIANT ROOM FULL OF FUTONS...
...WHERE STUDENTS GO PLACES TO SEE AND LEARN HISTORY AND CULTURE...
A SCHOOL TRIP IS A GROUP TRIP...

THE TRIP ITINERARY IS OKAYAMA TO HIRO-SHIMA TO YAMA-GUCHI.
IT'S A NORMAL TRIP. NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.
IGNORE THEM.
CONFUSED
WELL?
WHO'S THE UNLUCKY GUY THIS YEAR?
SHF


MAY. A MONTH WHEN NEW FLOWERS BLOOM.
WHEN THE SPORTS COMPETI-TIONS ARE OVER ...
YEAH
YEAH YEAH
FWEE

NEW STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT
...AND THE SUCCESSION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT HAS COME OFF WITHOUT A HITCH..
KUSU KUSU

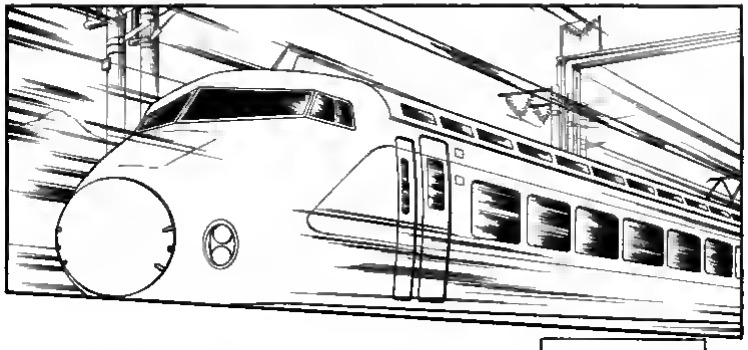
Sure
SO THAT'S WHY THIS PLOT NEVER CAME UP BEFORE. IT'S BECAUSE OF THE SEASONAL TIMING.
...THE RYOKUTO ACADEMY SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS GO ON A SCHOOL TRIP.

HOW'S THAT DIFFERENT FROM BEING IN THE DORM?
HUH?
WAIT...
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
ASIDE FROM THE GIRLS.
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT GOING TO TEMPLES AND OLD RUINS AS A GROUP? IT'S SO MUCH BETTER TO GO BY YOURSELF! ON TOP OF THAT, THE PLACE WE'RE STAYING AT IS A THIRD-RATE RYOKAN!
...
THEY SHOULD BE TAKING US OVERSEAS! WE'RE A PRIVATE SCHOOL!
SHK
FIRST OF ALL ...
TAK
YOU'RE SO SPOILED...
TOCHIZAWA, WHAT'S OKAYAMA FAMOUS FOR?
HUH
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
STUDENTS WHO DON'T LIVE IN THE DORM DON'T NORMALLY GET TO DO THIS.

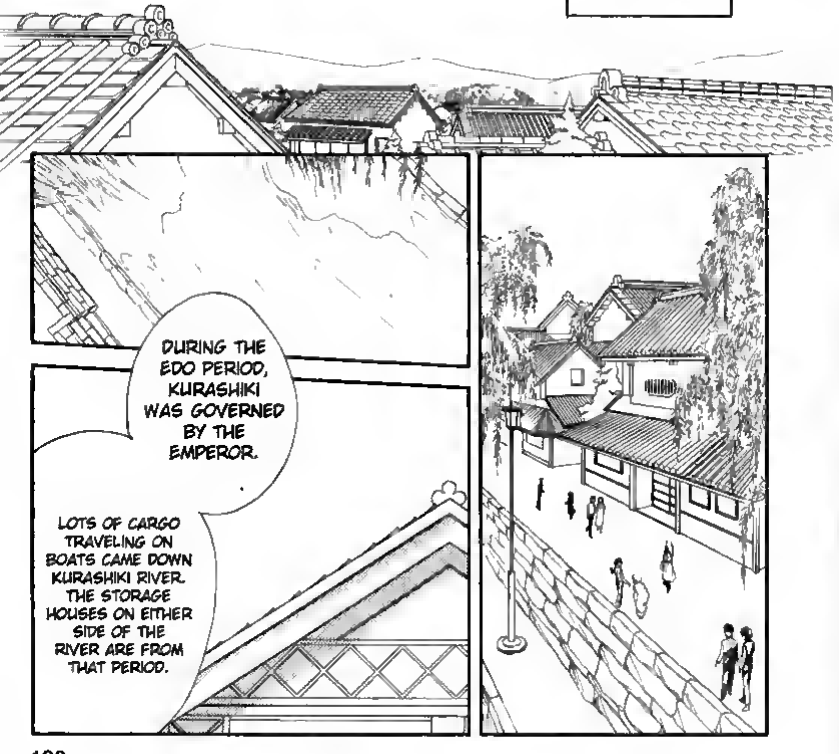
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
EVERY YEAR, A FEW RESIDENTS FIND THAT THE TRIP LANDS IN THEIR HOMETOWN.
I HAVE A FRIEND WHO HAS TO GO TO HER OLD HOME TOWN OF KYOTO FOR HER ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TRIP
THE SECOND SON OF A BARBER SHOP OWNER IN OKAYAMA.
ME.
?
HOW WAS IT? HMM ...
HOW WAS THE TRIP LAST YEAR?
THE NEXT FOUR DAYS ARE GOING TO BE QUIET, THEN.
DOING X, Y, AND Z WHILE THE TEACHERS AREN'T LOOKING.
TALKING ABOUT RANDOM STUFF.
SNEAKING OUT FOR THE LOCAL NIGHTLIFE.
BEING HALF-ASLEEP THE NEXT DAY.
GETTING CLOSE TO A GIRL I LIKE.
...WHAT ARE YOU GUYS MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO ON THIS TRIP?
WELL...

?
GO FIND SOMEONE OTHER THAN YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US.
FINE.
WE'RE LEAVING!
OFF YOU GO!
REMEMBER, ONLY PICK UP CHICKS WHO ARE HOT ENOUGH TO DATE RYOKUTO STUDENTS!
GOOD LUCK, GUYS!
Bring back some snacks!

AND ONE MORE THING.
YOU GUYS ARE FORGETTING THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.
YEAH YEAH UH-HUH
GOT ALL THAT?
MAMAKARI FISH, SQUID, BREAM, MACKEREL...MUSCAT GRAPES (THOUGH IT'S EARLY IN THE SEASON), SWEET RICE BALLS, PASTRY CAKE WITH SWEET BEANS...
RE ASSUMES THIS IS ABOUT THE FOOD.
AHA
THERE'LL BE ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOLS AND CO-ED SCHOOLS, TOO...
OTHER SCHOOLS WILL BE THERE.
THAT'S KIDNAPPING!
BRING US BACK SOME OF THAT, TOO! ♡
IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET GIRLS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS!
TH... THAT'S RIGHT!
REMEMBER LAST YEAR? BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, SIX GIRLS CAME BACK WITH US.
Then followed us home and we kept 'em.
WHAT WERE THE PROFESSORS THINKING?



DAY 1: KURASHIKI


DURING THE EDO PERIOD, KURASHIKI WAS GOVERNED BY THE EMPEROR.
LOTS OF CARGO TRAVELING ON BOATS CAME DOWN KURASHIKI RIVER. THE STORAGE HOUSES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE RIVER ARE FROM THAT PERIOD.

WHAT'S WITH HIM?
WHAT THE...?
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...
HEH ...
NO!
ARE YOU THAT EXCITED TO GET ON A BULLET TRAIN?
Never been on one?
FREEDOM
HEH HEH HEH
I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW FREE I'M GOING TO BE FOR THE NEXT FOUR DAYS...
HE'S LEARNING ...
WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY WOULD'VE DONE IF I'D ACTED TOO CHEERFUL AT THE DORM..

Why's he so psyched?
HERE'S WHERE IT STARTS TO GET FUN!
FISH
SHUK
OKAY.
CLASS B, GROUPS FIVE AND SIX. IT'S YOUR TURN TO TAKE A BATH.

HOW FASCINATING.
TOK TOK
IT GIVES YOU THE FEELING OF SUCH EMOTIONAL TRANSPARENCY ...
I'VE BEEN HERE A MILLION TIMES! GEEZ!
WANT TO GO TO THE OHARA MUSEUM?
SURE, WHY NOT?
HAPPY ALL BY HIMSELF.
FIRST OF ALL, THIS ISN'T THE PLACE FOR A BUNCH OF GUYS...
BUT...
SHO CHIKU EN
IT'S NOT RIGHT TO COME TO PLACES LIKE THIS FOR A CLASS TRIP.
Look at that fat swan.
YEAH, MORE THAN ANYTHING, IT SCREWS WITH YOUR SENSE OF BEAUTY.

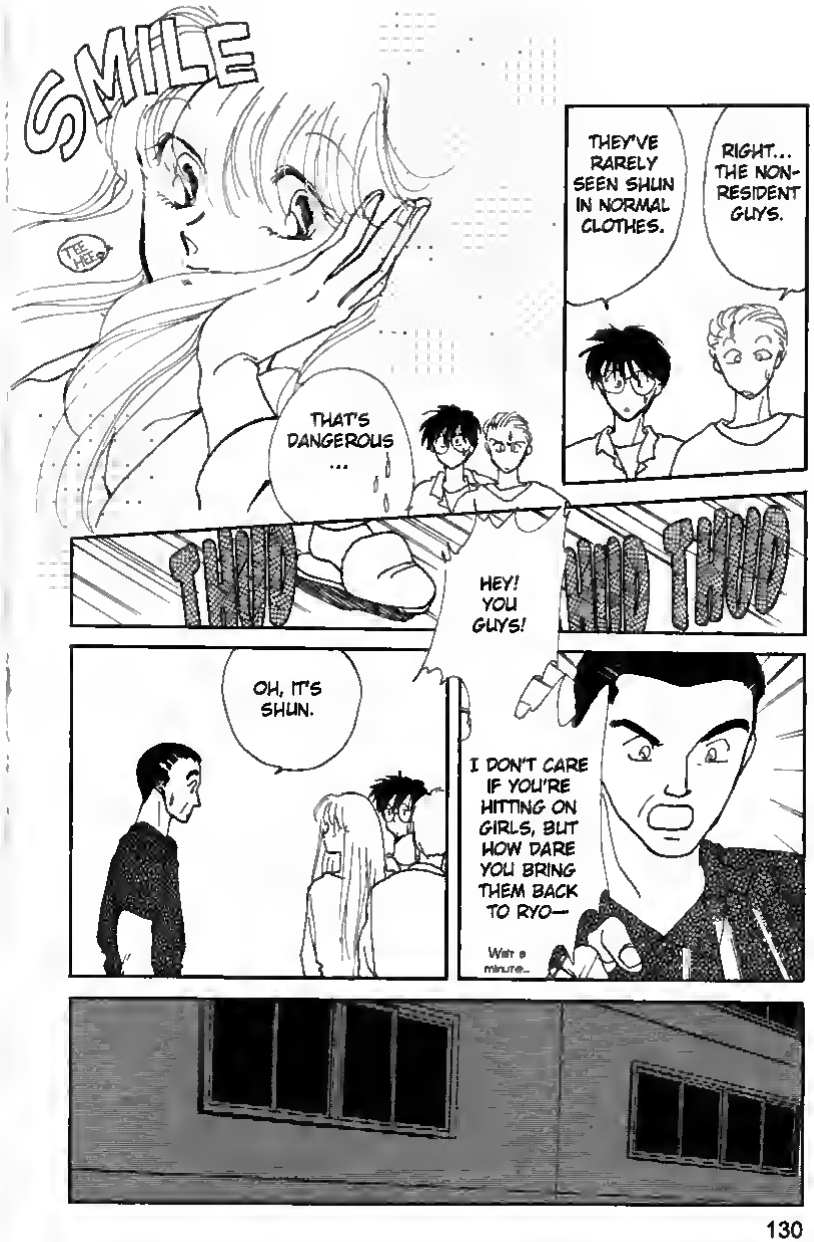
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING
WHEW
WE KNOW HOW TO PACE OUR-SELVES.
THE DORM KIDS ARE HOLDING UP WELL.

YOU'RE TAKING A BATH, TOO?
OF COURSE!
W...
WAIT A MINUTE!
GIMME BACK MY BOOOOYEAH!
BATH HOUSE
I GUESS EVERYONE WAS CLINGING TO THAT LAST STRING OF HOPE

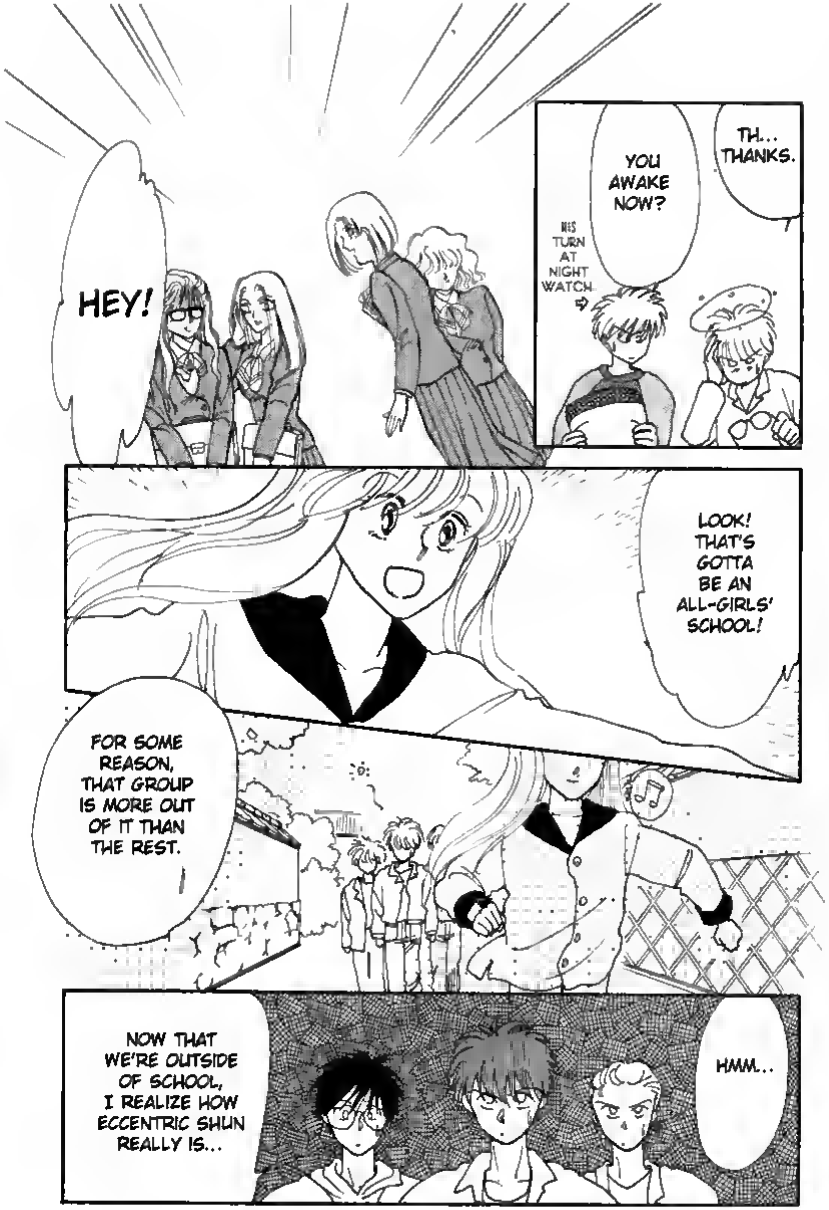
THEY STOPPED BACK AT IWOKUTO TO CHANGE CLOTHES ↓
DUDE, THEY'RE ALL MIDDLE-SCHOOL KIDS.
THERE'S NO ALL-GIRL GROUPS.
YOU ALL RIGHT, HASUKAWA?
OH, IT'S SHUN.
HEY, LOOK!
LET'S SEE ...
...
STARE...

WHERE'S EVERYBODY FROM?
HELLO, EVERYONE.
YOU GUYS ARE FROM EVERYWHERE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BUT TODAY I HIT THE JACKPOT! ♡
(AB) SICK
Sen-dai
Nagaoka
Tokyo
MISS ...
I KNOW, I KNOW. DON'T TELL ME THE OBVIOUS.
THIS SUCKS!
THIS BUS WILL NOW HEAD OVER TO HAGI.

ZZZ
HA
THWAK
SHF


SMILE
TEE HEE
THEY'VE RARELY SEEN SHUN IN NORMAL CLOTHES.
RIGHT... THE NON-RESIDENT GUYS.
THAT'S DANGEROUS ...
THUD
THUD
HEY! YOU GUYS!
OH, IT'S SHUN.
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE HITTING ON GIRLS, BUT HOW DARE YOU BRING THEM BACK TO RYO—
Wait a minute...

LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
. . YOU KNOW, MESSED UP? ESPECIALLY YOU.
DON'T YOU THINK THE GUYS AT GREEN-WOOD ARE KINDA...
HEY.
HEY...
GIVE US BACK OUR YOUTHFUL MANLY WAYS!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO CONCEN-TRATE ON PICKING UP CHICKS!
AUGH!
A SCHOOL TRIP IS UNDENIABLY ...
...A CHAPTER IN ONE'S YOUTH.
You really should cut your hair. You're a senpai now.
No way.
WHAT ARE DOING, PICKING UP GUYS?
THEY'RE FOLLOWING ME.


HEY!
YOU AWAKE NOW?
TH... THANKS.
RES TURN AT NIGHT WATCH
LOOK! THAT'S GOTTA BE AN ALL-GIRLS' SCHOOL!
FOR SOME REASON, THAT GROUP IS MORE OUT OF IT THAN THE REST.
NOW THAT WE'RE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, I REALIZE HOW ECCENTRIC SHUN REALLY IS...
HMM...

I WONDER IF ANYONE'S IN THERE?
THOSE ARE THE CARRIAGES CELEBRITIES USUALLY SIT IN.
GREENWOOD SHOULD BE ALLOWED ON THE GREEN CARRIAGES.
LOOK, IT'S THE GREEN CARRIAGE AREA.
IDIOT.
?
NOK NOK
MI...

WITH MEMORIES ETCHED INTO THE STUDENTS' HEARTS...
...THE FOUR-DAY, THREE-NIGHT TRIP WAS ABOUT TO END WITHOUT A HITCH...
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
5
THE 3:00 BULLET TRAIN TO TOKYO WILL SOON BE...
THIS IS GOING TOO SMOOTHLY.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ...
HUH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
COME ON. WE'RE MOVING.
YOU'VE LOST THE ABILITY TO FUNCTION WITHOUT TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPENING TO YOU.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME...
...FOR COFFEE?
N...NO THANKS, I'M HERE WITH THE CLASS...
I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE PERFECT.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED TO SPEAK TO THEM ABOUT.
I'LL JUST CALL THEM ONCE I GET BACK...
T-OK
LET'S MEET UP SOMETIME SOON, THEN.
OH... THAT'S RIGHT...
THANK YOU...
Bullet trains are so fast
I'LL WALK YOU TO THE GREEN CAR-RIAGE
WALKING DIRECTION
HALT

HELLO...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WOBBLES
I dunno.
Who's that?
YES.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
ARE YOU ON A BUSINESS TRIP?
OH...
I SEE...
NO, WE'RE ON A CLASS TRIP.
ARE THEY HERE WITH YOU, TOO?

FIND THE PRINCE!
(PART ONE)

.....
CHG
CHG
...
VWEE
SEMPAI, MAKE HIM TELL US!
THEY WERE REALLY FRIENDLY WITH EACH OTHER, BUT HE WON'T TELL US WHO SHE IS!
HEY!
WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST PICK UP NORMAL GIRLS?
SHUF
SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING, SO SHE'LL CALL.
WHO WAS THE BABE?

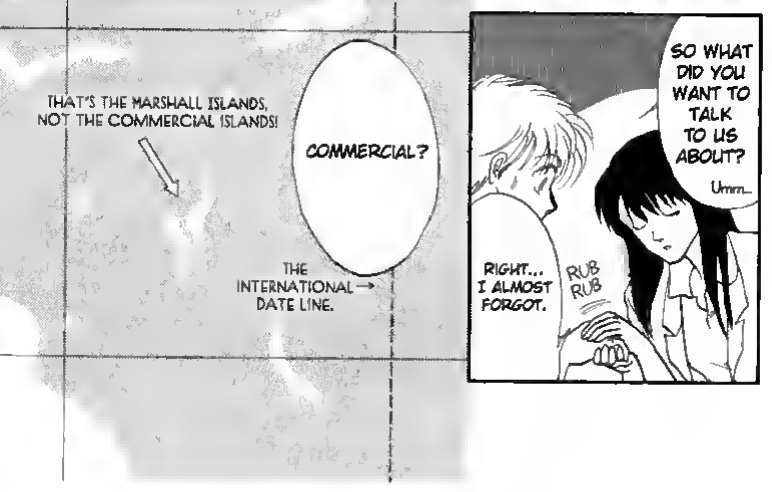
WHAT'S A SCHOOL TRIP?: THE END

FIND THE PRINCE!
(PART ONE)

I DON'T KNOW. SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO MEET IN PERSON AND DISCUSS IT.
A FAVOR?
WHAT KIND?
NEXT SUNDAY, IN FRONT OF THE STATION...
I WONDER WHAT SHE WANTS TO ASK US?
WHO KNOWS?
IF SHE'S TAKING TIME OUT OF HER BUSY SCHEDULE TO COME SEE US, IT MUST BE IMPORTANT.
I SO DON'T BELIEVE THEM. I'M GOING TO CHECK HER OUT AGAIN FOR MYSELF!
TAGGING ALONG FOR NO GOOD REASON.
Hi! How are you?
WELCOME!
YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
I DOUBT IT'LL BE GOOD NEWS.

HELLO, MIEKO?
SHE CALLED THAT NIGHT, AS PROMISED.
HUH?
SAY WHAT?
I REALLY CAN'T HEAR YOU!
MIEKO NITTA?
I'm back.
READ VOLUME 1!
THEN HOW DO YOU GUYS KNOW HER?
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
IT SEEMS SHE WANTS TO ASK ONE OF US A FAVOR.
CHEER
SHHH!
WHO? HER?
DON'T SAY ANYTHING! ESPECIALLY TO THE FANBOYS HERE!
ARE YOU SURE?

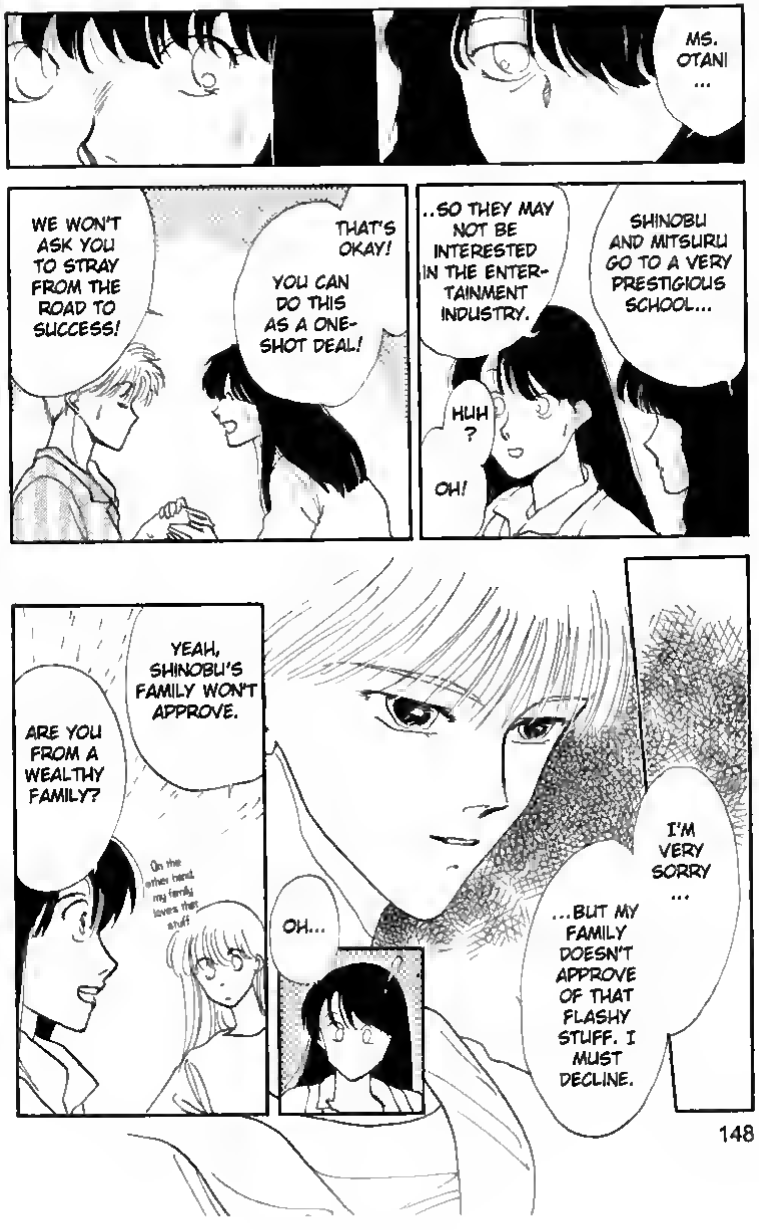
I'M YUKI OTANI. ♡
I'M JUST A TAD OLDER THAN YOU KIDS. ♡
...SO SHE'S MY NEW MANAGER.
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU..
CHK
It's the stress.
MR. SUGITA, MY LAST MANAGER, QUIT...
OH, MIEKO, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD SUCH GORGEOUS BOYFRIENDS. HOW DARE YOU!
ARE YOU INTO OLDER WOMEN?
ARE YOU SURE SHE'S OKAY?
SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE


THAT'S THE MARSHALL ISLANDS, NOT THE COMMERCIAL ISLANDS!
COMMERCIAL?
THE INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE.
SO WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO US ABOUT?
Umm..
RIGHT... I ALMOST FORGOT.
RUB RUB

HI!
OVER HERE!
UM.. I'M MEETING SOMEONE ...
HEY. DO YOU WANT A PART-TIME JOB?
OH, DON'T BE SO COLD!
DO YOU KNOW HER?
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU! HURRY THIS WAY!
HUH?
UM..
MIEKO?
KOFF KOFF
THEY CAN'T EVEN GET A WORD IN...
SLOW DOWN ...
MS. OTANI ...

SO YOU WANT US TO DO IT?
LEAVE IT TO ME! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO SIT AROUND WAITING FOR HOT GUYS TO WANDER BY!
OH HO HO!
MS. OTANI SAID, "LET'S DO IT!"
BRAG
I'D LOVE TO OFFER YOU GUYS THE PART!
YES!
YOU GUYS ARE PERFECT! I'M POSITIVE THE RETAILERS AND CLIENT WON'T HAVE A PROBLEM!
I think.
WELL? DON'T YOU WANT TO BE A STAR?
BUT THIS MAY BE YOUR TICKET TO STARDOM!
WELL, IN THE END, IT'S UP TO THE CLIENT.
WOW, THAT'S GREAT! GO FOR IT, SEMPAI!

YES.
YOU KNOW ...
...I'M PROMOTING A CAMERA, RIGHT?
WE'RE GOING TO START SHOOTING THE NEW COMMERCIAL SOON.
BUT WE COULDN'T FIND THE RIGHT MODEL.
THEN A GUY FROM OUR CLIENT'S COMPANY STARTED SAYING...
"LET'S GET A FRESH FACE!"
EXACTLY! THAT'S WHY...
...WE NEED A GUY TO SHOOT WITH MIEKO.
RUB RUB
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BOTHER YOU, BUT I SPOKE TO MY STAFF ABOUT IT.
...OF YOU TWO.
THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT ...
BUT WE HAVE TO DO WHAT THE CLIENT ASKS.
THAT POSES A PROBLEM. WE CAN'T JUST PAIR OFF SOME RANDOM GUY WITH MIEKO.


MS. OTANI ...
SHINOBU AND MITSURU GO TO A VERY PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL...
..SO THEY MAY NOT BE INTERESTED IN THE ENTER-TAINMENT INDUSTRY.
HUH ?
OH!
THAT'S OKAY!
YOU CAN DO THIS AS A ONE-SHOT DEAL!
WE WON'T ASK YOU TO STRAY FROM THE ROAD TO SUCCESS!
I'M VERY SORRY ...
...BUT MY FAMILY DOESN'T APPROVE OF THAT FLASHY STUFF. I MUST DECLINE.
OH...
On the other hand, my family loves that stuff
ARE YOU FROM A WEALTHY FAMILY?
YEAH, SHINOBU'S FAMILY WON'T APPROVE.

I SEE!
HEY, THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR SHOULDER. LET ME GET IT FOR YOU..
OH OH OH
AND PLEASE TELL YOUR FATHER I SAID HELLO.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MITSURU?
WELL, YOU KNOW ...
...I HAVE A LOT GOING ON AT SCHOOL...
...and college entrance exams are coming up...
DON'T WORRY!
IT WON'T INTERFERE WITH YOUR SCHOOLWORK.
I'LL TALK TO YOUR SCHOOL AND PARENTS ABOUT IT!
WELL?
COME ON, LET'S DO IT. ♡
MITSURU... PLEASE. I'M ASKING YOU...

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO HEARING A YES! ♡
A MODEL FOR A COMMERCIAL.
PRETTY COOL...
...BUT I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THEY'VE GOTTEN OFFERS LIKE THIS BEFORE.
YEAH, I THOUGHT THAT WAS STRANGE, TOO.
HE LOVES BEING IN THE SPOTLIGHT, BUT HE ACTED SO RELUCTANT ...
MITSURU DOESN'T SEEM TOO THRILLED ABOUT IT.
DO YOU THINK THERE'S MORE TO IT?
MORE TO WHAT?
NOT WANTING TO DO THIS COMMERCIAL!
MAYBE HE CAN'T FOR SOME REASON ...
THAT MEANS ...
WHOA!!

WHEN SHE ASKS ME FOR A FAVOR, I FEEL LIKE SHE'S TELLING ME HER DYING WISH...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
RESTRANT
NO.
HUH?
SLAM
GREAT JOB, MIEKO!
MARRYING UP
YOU SHOULD NEVER PASS UP AN OPPORTUNITY...
...TO MEET A RICH, HOT GUY, EVEN IF IT KILLS YOU!
AWESOME! IT WAS WORTH CANCELING A GIG!
THINKING OF THOSE TWO!
BUT...
OH HO HO
...THEY ARE TO CARRY OUT THIS PARTICULAR JOB.
REGARDLESS OF HOW WILLING...
ONA ROI
NOW OFF TO WORK!
ER, YES...
YOU'RE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, TOO, SO MAKE SURE YOU SNAG A HOTTIE!

I HEARD YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN A COMMERCIAL WITH MIEKO NITTA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE KEEPING IT A SECRET!
QUIT IT!
Yeah, she's tacky.
Just because she's hot she thinks she can do whatever
Have you heard?
SEMPAI! HOW'S MIEKO? DID YOU ALREADY MEET HER?
I ALWAYS KNEW YOU WANTED TO STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD, BUT...
WHEN DID YOU PULL THIS OFF?
YOU ...
HEH HEH HEH
WHO ELSE HAVE YOU TOLD?
The Japanese mob? That's too dangerous!
First you've got to prove your worth.
THE JAPANESE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS A SCARY PLACE. IT'S RUN BY THE YAKUZA, Y'KNOW.
STOP TEACHING HIM THINGS YOU MADE UP!
TOMOHIRO

When did I turn evil?
AH!
Okay!
THUD THUD
WE HAVE TO MAKE HIM DO IT!
GRAB
ZUMZUMZUM
MIT-SURU-SEM-PAI !!
MIT-SURU !!

...BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR FUTURE? I HOPE YOU'RE STILL GOING TO COLLEGE.
YOU MIGHT BE GOOD FOR THAT TYPE OF JOB...
GROAN
MITSURU!
I HEARD YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON TV!
OH! I HEARD YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON TV!
PING
TAX NOT INCL
WHY DOES EVERYONE IN TOWN KNOW ABOUT IT?
PROBABLY BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS YOU.
YOU'RE IN A GOOD SCHOOL. DON'T BLOW IT.
I'D STAY AWAY FROM THAT TYPE OF STUFF. IT'S TOO UNPREDICTABLE.
GOOD LUCK.
SNAP SNAP SNAP

MITSURU ...
WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT! I HAVEN'T DECIDED TO DO IT YET!
DONG DING
IT'S FINE.
THERE'S NO SCHOOL RULE THAT SAYS WE CAN'T HAVE PART-TIME JOBS, RIGHT?
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? THE WHOLE SCHOOL KNOWS ABOUT IT.
CHATTER
Really?
Did you hear Mitsuru-senpai was scouted?

YES!
We did it!
...I REALLY CAN'T SAY NO NOW...
NO.
JUST THIS ONCE ...
YEAH.
A FRIEND ASKED ME, SO ...
OW...
WHY ARE YOU SO RELUCTANT?
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE PSYCHED ABOUT IT.
YOU LOVE THIS TYPE OF STUFF.
YOUR MOM GIVE YOU THE GO-AHEAD?
YEAH.
...
SHUK

I GUESS YOU HAVE NO CHOICE. EVERYONE'S ROOTING FOR YOU.
EEE!
I got it! I got it!
Make me copies!
MITSURU IKEDA FROM ROOM 201... YOU HAVE A CALL.
RING RONG
CULPRIT
WHO THE HELL CALLED MY PARENTS?
YES!
THEY'RE LEGIT. IT'S FINE.
HELLO!
YOU'RE SURE THEY'RE NOT AN ADULT-VIDEO COMPANY?
I HEARD YOU GOT SCOUTED! ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE LEGITIMATE?
MIT-SURU?

APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH LATER...
THE SHOOT WAS SCHEDULED ...
CAN I COME AND WATCH?
OF COURSE! PLEASE STOP BY! ♡
...ON A SUNDAY SO IT WOULDN'T COINCIDE WITH SCHOOL.
STUDIO M5
OKAY, LET'S ROLL!
MITSURU! LOOK UP MORE! THERE!

...
BUT...
I THINK I'LL BE GOOD AT IT!
YEAH, I LIKE IT!
...THERE'S SOMEONE WHO'D GET ANGRY...
...ABOUT ME DOING THIS.
I'M SO HAPPY!
THANK YOU! I KNEW YOU'D SAY YES!
MITSURU WAS GOING TO BE IN A COMMERCIAL.
MEANWHILE, THE CLIENT WAS SHOWN MITSURU'S PHOTO AND FELL IN LOVE.
...DON'T YOU THINK HE HAS BAD LUCK WITH WOMEN?
...BUT...
HEY... MITSURU'S POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
GOOD! GOOD! KEEP IT RIGHT THERE!
TWITCH
TWITCH
MITSURU'S NERVOUS.
HE HAD A HUMBLE UPBRINGING.
He's doing all right
HE WORKS BETTER ON THE FLY...
AAUGH!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HA HA HA ...
I'M OKAY.
I'M OKAY ...
MITSURU, ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU NERVOUS?
THUNK

ARGH!
HUH? WHAT?
WHAT ABOUT THE COSTUME?
HOPE YOU'RE NOT HURT!
URK
NO WORRIES.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW? YOU HAVE A CLOSE-UP SHOT!
WHY, YOU ...
VISITOR
OOO
FLUSHED
HEY!
See?
... THIS.
THE BEST PART ABOUT HIS FACE IS...
PANK
IT'D BE A WASTE TO NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACE!
EVERYONE WILL WANT YOU!
WILL YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MODELING?

GE GE GE GE GE
HEY! BE CAREFUL! THAT HURT!
OH! SORRY!
FWP
Geez! Stagehands are such...
ER ...
...
TOK TOK TOK

I'M WIPED!
I HATE BEING COOPED UP INDOORS ALL DAY!
I NEVER KNEW HOW PHYSICALLY CHALLENGING THIS WAS.
OOO!
IT MUST BE HARD DOING IT ALL THE TIME.
I KNOW, I KNOW!
SOMETIMES I THINK ABOUT FINDING SOMEONE WONDERFUL AND QUITTING MY JOB.
BUT WHEN YOU'RE THIS BEAUTIFUL AND SUCCESSFUL, GUYS ARE TOO INTIMIDATED TO MAKE A MOVE.
UM... I SEE...
YOU THINK SO? CAN YOU TELL?
THE GODS WERE KIND TO ME!
IT'S NOT EASY BEING PERFECT!
OH HO HO HO HO

FIND THE PRINCE!
(PART TWO)

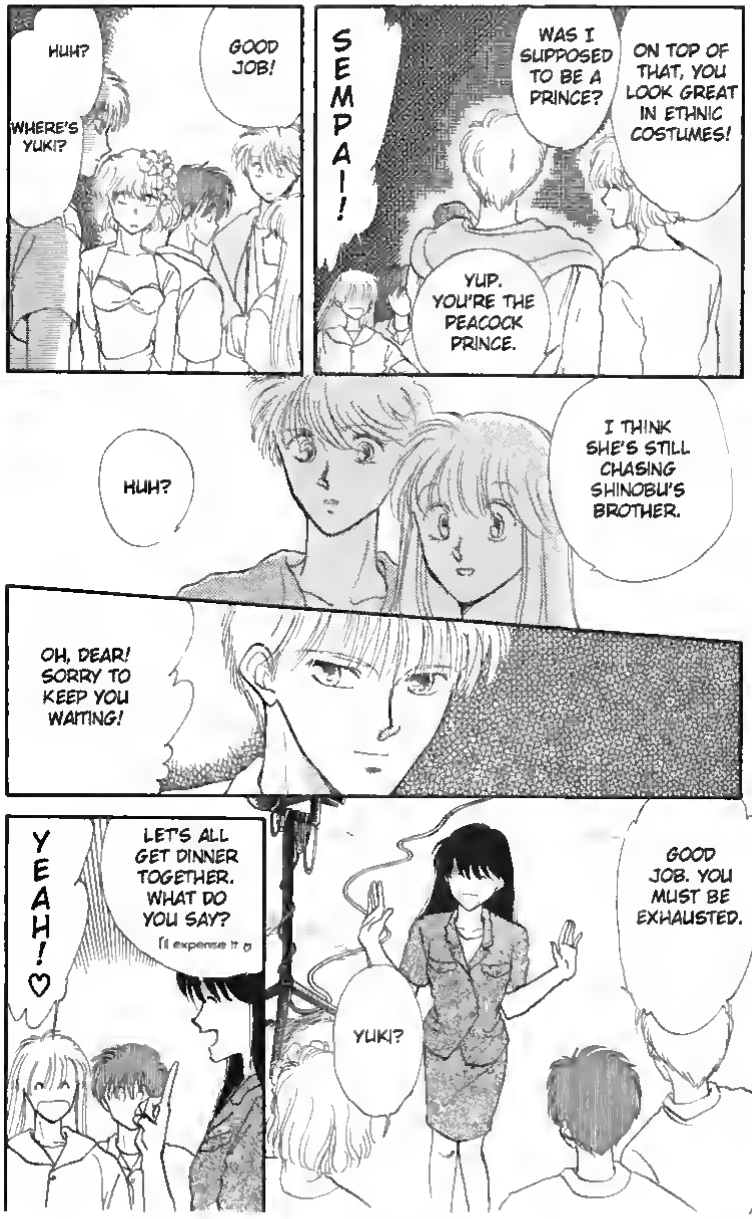
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...
...THERE WERE A PRINCE AND A PRINCESS.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE DOING ALL RIGHT.

I LIVE IN A DORM AT RYOKUTO ACADEMY.
PLEASE GIVE ME A CALL SOMETIME
AKIRA?
WE'RE WORRIED ...
... ABOUT YOU.
HE'S YOUR OLDER BROTHER?
SHINO-BU! THAT GUY...
SO YOU'RE THE SECOND SON?
YES.

... BROTHER?
SHINOBU.
SHINOBU-SEMPAI'S...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
THE MALE MODEL IN THE PHOTO SHOOT IS MY FRIEND.
I'M HERE FOR...
...MORAL SUPPORT.
SORRY ...
...BUT I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
I'LL TALK TO YOU SOON.
SURE.
UM.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
THESE TWO ARE MY KOHAI.

ONE DAY, THE PRINCE VANISHED FROM THE CASTLE.
AKIRA!
HUH?
WHEN DO YOU GET OFF OF WORK?
GET BACK TO WORK!
HUH?
I'M YUKI OTANI FROM JIS AGENCY.
I'M MIEKO NITTA'S MANAGER.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING CARE OF MIEKO TODAY.
OH...
CUT!
THAT'S A WRAP! GOOD JOB!

YOSH
IT'S PRETTY CRAZY.
HMM...
I HAD NO IDEA SHINOBU HAD AN OLDER BROTHER.
BUT THE QUESTION IS, WHY IS THE HEIR TO A FORTUNE DOING GRUNT WORK HERE?
PLEASE WAIT!
OH...
CRAZY LIKE A FOX.
I THINK SHE'S CRAZY, TOO.
SHINOBU'S BROTHER IS GOING TO INHERIT THE TEZUKA FAMILY ESTATE, RIGHT?
EXCUSE ME!


HUH?
GOOD JOB!
WHERE'S YUKI?
SEMPAI!
WAS I SUPPOSED TO BE A PRINCE?
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU LOOK GREAT IN ETHNIC COSTUMES!
YUP. YOU'RE THE PEACOCK PRINCE.
HUH?
I THINK SHE'S STILL CHASING SHINOBU'S BROTHER.
OH, DEAR! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
YEAH! ♡
LET'S ALL GET DINNER TOGETHER. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I'll expense it ☺
YUKI?
GOOD JOB. YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED.

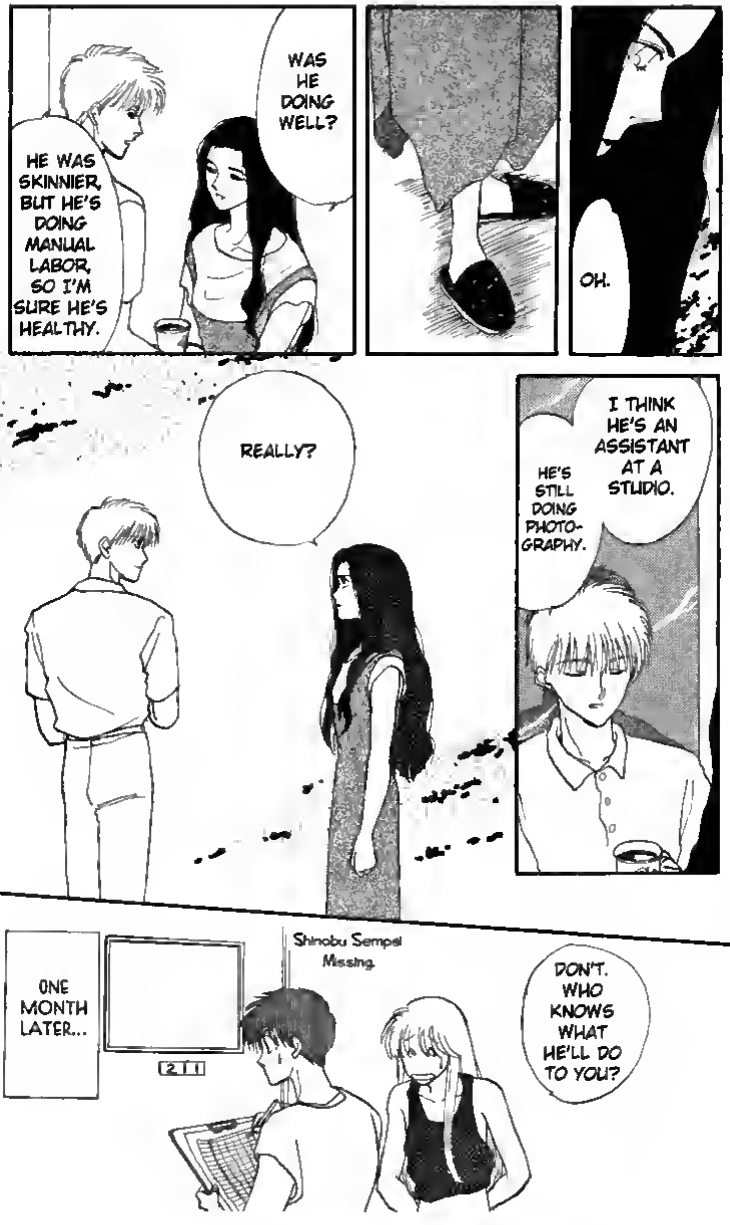
EXCUSE ME...
HOW LONG IS THAT CLOSE-UP OF ME GOING TO BE ON THE SCREEN?
GOOD WORK!
DON'T WORRY! HA HA HA
OH... I SEE...
YOU'LL BE ON THERE LONG ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO RECOGNIZE YOU!
SEE?
I KNEW YOU'D BE PERFECT!
I CAN TOTALLY SEE YOU AS A PRINCE.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAN COME TO A PRINCESS'S RESCUE.
HUH?
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT FROM THE GET-GO!

PIERS
THANK YOU FOR DINNER!
SEE YOU LATER!
TELL YOUR BROTHER I SAID HELLO! ♡
I'M STUFFED!
GLAD WE TOLD THE SUPERVISOR WE'D BE LATE AHEAD OF TIME!
HEY, SHINOBU.
DID YOU KNOW YOUR BOTHER WAS GOING TO BE THERE?
OF COURSE NOT
HE HASN'T CONTACTED US IN THREE YEARS.
THREE YEARS ?

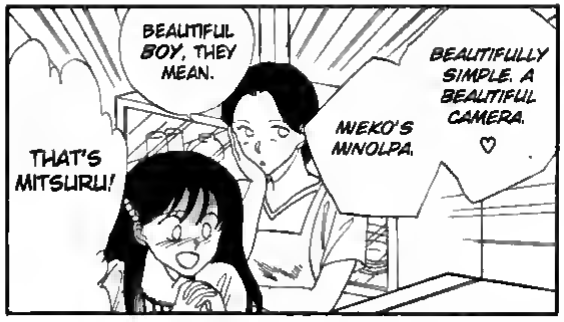
ACTUALLY, HE WAS DISOWNED THREE YEARS AGO.
DIS
...
DID YOUR BROTHER RUN AWAY OR SOMETHING?
AT HIS AGE, I DOUBT YOU'D CALL HIM A RUNAWAY.
I SEE.
WELL ...
I THINK MY MOM OR SOMEONE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HIM..
HE'S BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE.
A YEAR BEFORE HIS COLLEGE GRADUATION, HE SUDDENLY STARTED SAYING HE WANTED TO GO INTO PHOTOGRAPHY. HE GOT INTO A BIG FIGHT WITH MY DAD.
SHE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW.
How old is he?
Your brother is single right? ♡
Eat and drink as much as you like.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO TELL MS. OTANI?

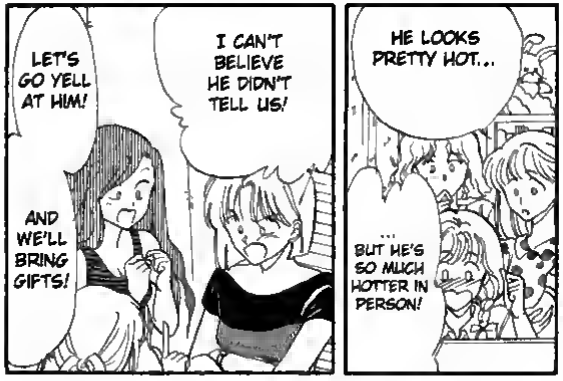
...A PRINCESS WAS LOCKED INSIDE A TALL TOWER.
W...
I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW MORNING
YEAH, BUT...
COVER FOR ME. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
SEMPAI!
YOU CAN'T! SEMPAI!
WAIT!
AND SO...

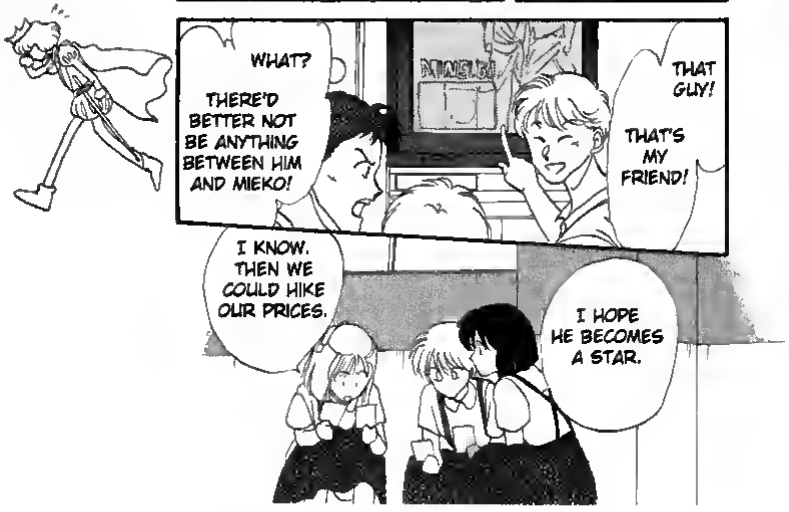
MIT-SURU.
HE CHOSE HIS DREAM OVER MONEY! THAT'S SO COOL!
YOU KNOW, THAT'S AMAZING!
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO
Y... YES?
HASUKAWA?


WAS HE DOING WELL?
HE WAS SKINNIER, BUT HE'S DOING MANUAL LABOR, SO I'M SURE HE'S HEALTHY.
OH.
REALLY?
I THINK HE'S AN ASSISTANT AT A STUDIO.
HE'S STILL DOING PHOTO-GRAPHY.
ONE MONTH LATER...
Shinobu Sempai Missing.
DON'T. WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL DO TO YOU?

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO CALL ME AHEAD OF TIME?
GEEZ...
YOU'RE SCARING ME.
WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS FOR YOU.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I SAW AKIRA TODAY.


BEAUTIFUL BOY, THEY MEAN.
BEAUTIFULLY SIMPLE. A BEAUTIFUL CAMERA. ♡
MIEKO'S MINOLPA.
THAT'S MITSURU!


LET'S GO YELL AT HIM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE DIDN'T TELL US!
AND WE'LL BRING GIFTS!
HE LOOKS PRETTY HOT...
...BUT HE'S SO MUCH HOTTER IN PERSON!


WHAT?
THERE'D BETTER NOT BE ANYTHING BETWEEN HIM AND MIEKO!
THAT GUY!
THAT'S MY FRIEND!
I KNOW. THEN WE COULD HIKE OUR PRICES.
I HOPE HE BECOMES A STAR.

MITSURU'S COMMERCIAL...
...WENT ON THE AIR.
THERE HE IS!

PLEASE COME TO THE RECEPTION AREA IMMEDIATELY.
HA HA HA
CHK
PRINCE FROM ROOM 211... YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL.
SLAM
LIKE SOMEONE ...
...MITSURU DOESN'T WANT TO BE RECOGNIZED BY.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LIKE WHO?
I KNEW IT...
HE'S WORRIED THAT SOMEONE'S GOING TO SEE THAT COMMERCIAL.

211
That weirdo Mitsuru
Creepy Mitsuru
THE PEACOCK PRINCE
I SEE. SO THIS IS IT.
ALUMS WHO CAME TO TOWN TO GET THE TAPE.
YOU LOOK PRETTY GOOD IN WEIRD OUTFITS.
KAME TOLD ME ABOUT IT, BUT I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO SEE IT YET.
ENDING
NO. IT'S NOTHING
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MITSURU?

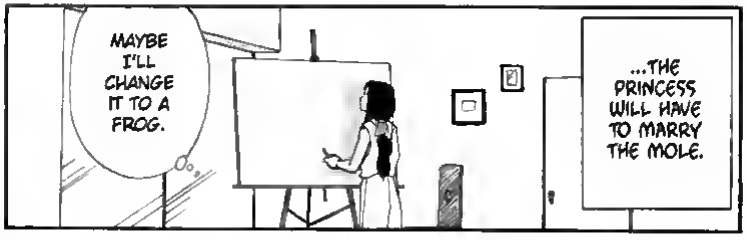
MAYBE HE MESSED AROUND WITH A GIRL WITHOUT TELLING HER HIS REAL NAME.
OOO
MAYBE SOMEONE SAW HIM DOING SOMETHING INCRIMINATING.
TAK
LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!
WHEW
OH. IT'S YOU GUYS!
TNK
GUESS HE'S STILL SAFE.
YEAH ...
HELLO?
MAYBE I SHOULD SUCK IT UP AND TELL HIM...
?
MOM SAID SHE'D KEEP QUIET...
...BUT I'M SURE THE COMMERCIAL IS UNAVOIDABLE.
BRRNG
WOW! I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH HE'S FLIPPING OUT!
WHY? WHO'S HE WORRIED ABOUT?
HELLO ... GREEN-WOOD DORM ...
MITSURU, YOU'RE THERE, RIGHT? CAN YOU ANSWER THE PHONE?
SHAAA
RING RING RING

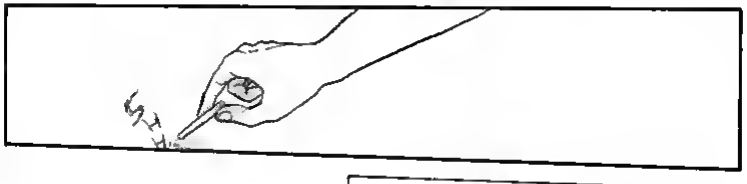
...EXCEPT THAT, WHENEVER SHE HAS ANY FREE TIME, SHE RUNS TO VISIT SHINOBU'S BROTHER.
SHE'S WEARING LONG SLEEVES, BECAUSE OF THE A/C.
I AM. SHE'S A NICE PERSON ...
SO HOW ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU GETTING ALONG WITH YUKI?
OH, REALLY?
I HOPE SHE'S NOT GETTING IN HIS WAY AT WORK.
SO YOU'RE TRYING TO GAIN EXPERIENCE AS A STUDIO HAND?
THAT'S GREAT! I LOVE PEOPLE WHO ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT THEY DO!
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

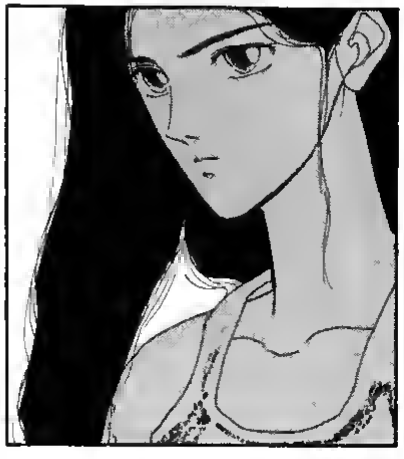
SNEAK SNEAK
OH, IT'S YOU, MIEKO...
Whew
IS THIS MITSURU?
HELLO... THIS IS MIEKO. MAY I PLEASE SPEAK TO MITSURU IKEDA?
IF WE CAN JUST FIND OUT WHO HE'S AFRAID OF...
THIS IS AWESOME. WE'VE DISCOVERED HIS WEAKNESS!
THAT COMMERCIAL IS REALLY POPULAR.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR WORK.
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
HEH!
THANKS
WE DIDN'T TELL THEM ANYTHING, AS WE PROMISED.
APPARENTLY, THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF CALLS ASKING ABOUT YOU.

AND WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
MIEKO'S MINOLPA.
BZT
YOU'VE DONE A LOT FOR ME.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HAPPY TO HEAR IT.
SINCE WHEN DID YOU BECOME SUCH A NICE GUY?
NOW IT'S UP TO YOU.
AT THIS RATE ...
IT'S SUMMER.
MAYBE I SHOULD CUT IT.
ARGH, MY HAIR'S IMPOSSIBLE.
HOW DARE HE BE HAPPY! WHAT ABOUT MY HAPPINESS?
WELL ...
YOU'RE THE ELDEST SON.
... I'M SURE YOUR FAMILY MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
BUT, YOU KNOW ...
I'M NOT ESPECIALLY TALENTED...
OH, OF COURSE YOU ARE!
I NEED HIM TO GO HOME AND INHERIT THE FAMILY FORTUNE! ♡
HE'S NOT GOING TO GET FAR FIDDLING WITH PHOTOGRAPHY.
BEAUTIFULLY SIMPLE... A BEAUTIFUL CAMERA. ♡
MARRYING MONEY! I'M NOT LETTING THIS OPPORTUNITY SLIP BY!
TEE HEE

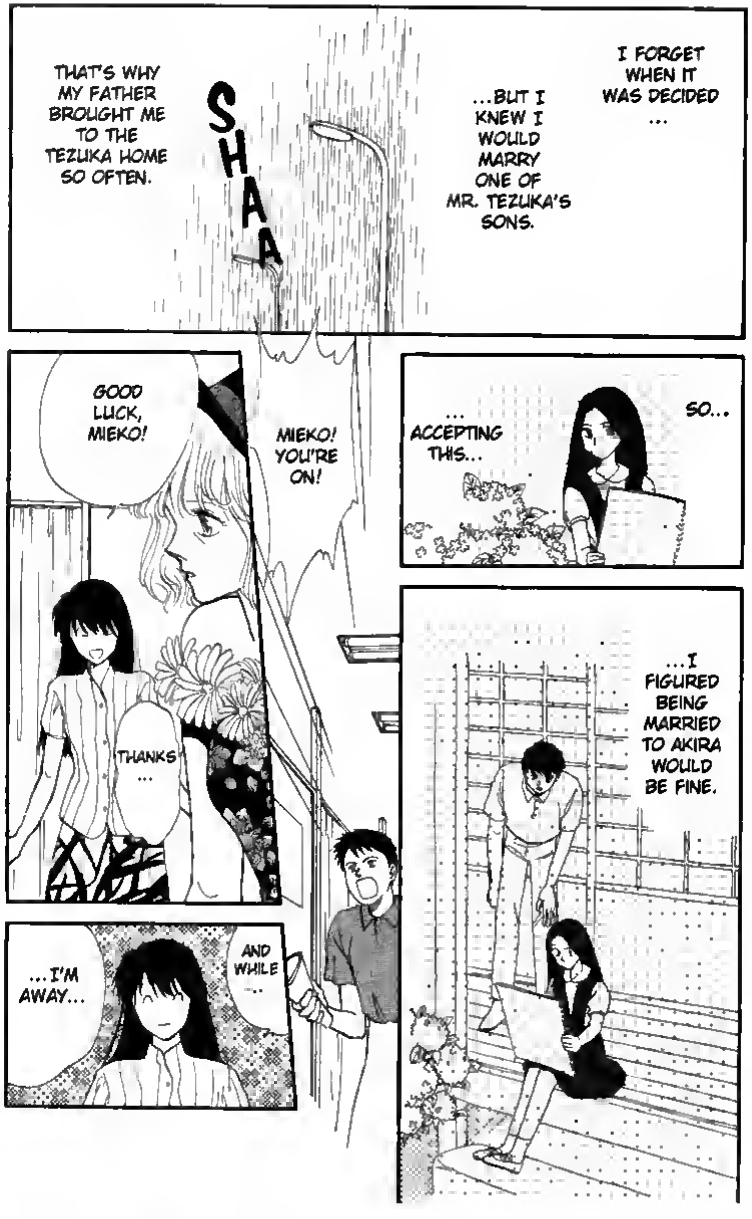
FIND THE PRINCE!
(PART THREE)







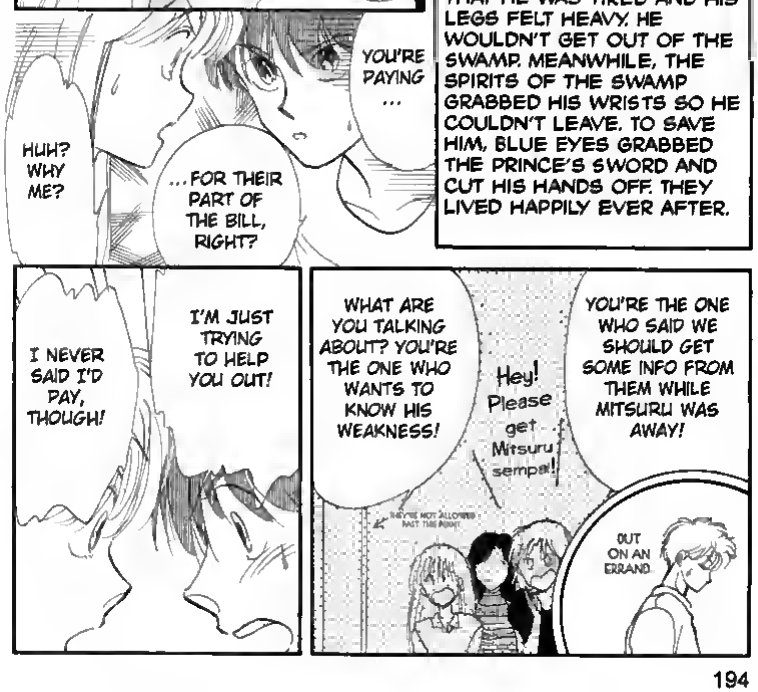
WHAT? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A PRINCE?
SIT TIGHT AND WAIT FOR ME, MY PRINCE! ♡
LA LA
LA LA
STOP IT! YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT!
MITSURU'S A PRINCE?
HA HA HA HA HA
THAT'S SO COOL!
THE ONLY PRINCE WHO'S HALF-DECENT IS THE ONE WHO SAVED SLEEPING BEAUTY!
THE PRINCES IN FAIRY TALES HAVE MONEY AND STATUS, BUT THEY'RE ALL WIERDOS! LIKE THE ONE WHO KISSES A DEAD BODY!
I KNOW THE WORST PRINCE!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE LITTLE MERMAID'S PRINCE IS A TOTAL IDIOT!
THE PRINCE FROM "BLUE EYES"!
WAIT, WAIT!

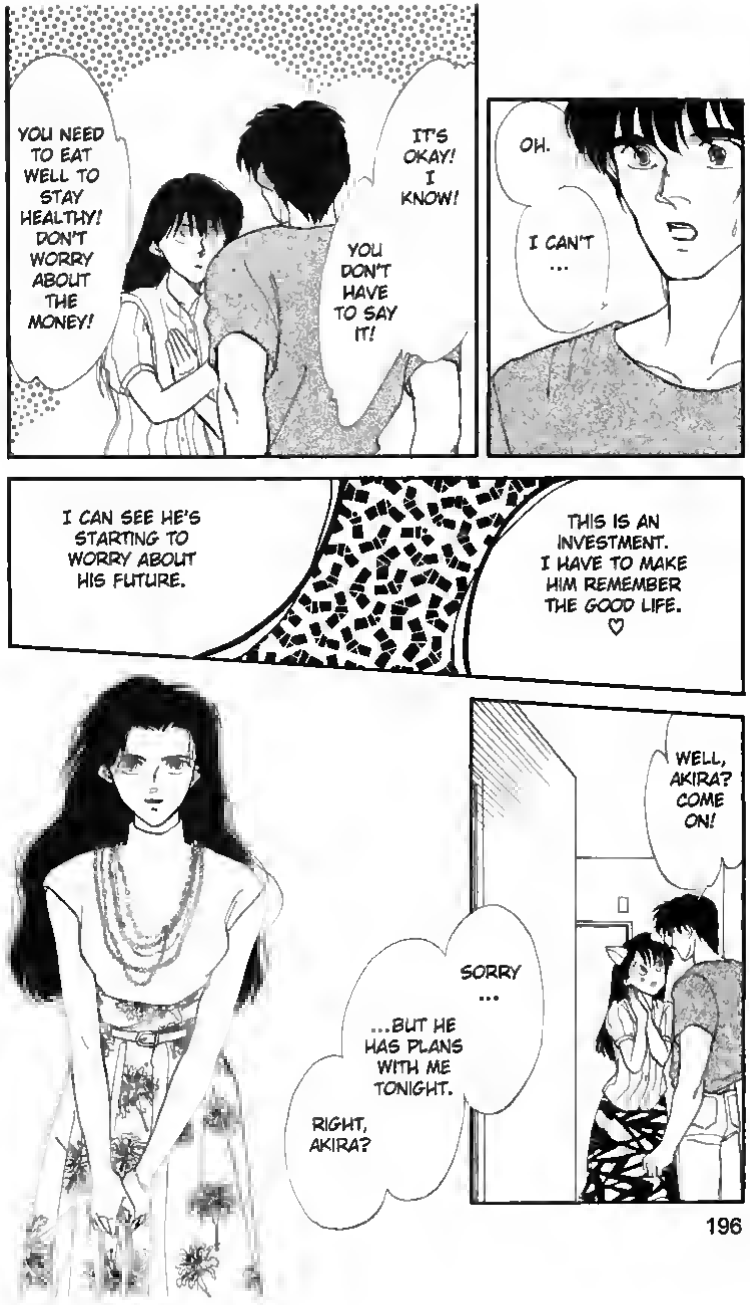

THAT'S WHY MY FATHER BROUGHT ME TO THE TEZUKA HOME SO OFTEN.
SHAA
...BUT I KNEW I WOULD MARRY ONE OF MR. TEZUKA'S SONS.
I FORGET WHEN IT WAS DECIDED ...
GOOD LUCK, MIEKO!
MIEKO! YOU'RE ON!
THANKS ...
... ACCEPTING THIS...
SO...
...I'M AWAY...
AND WHILE ...
...I FIGURED BEING MARRIED TO AKIRA WOULD BE FINE.

AHAA
AKIRA!
HI!
OH, NO-THING.
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
SO ...
GOT ANY PLANS TONIGHT?
WELL...
I HEARD THERE'S A REALLY GREAT STORE NEAR HERE.
WANNA GO SHOPPING?
OHOHO
HELLO!
I WAS IN THE AREA FOR WORK, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY.
MS. OTANI.
WHY WOULD THE MANAGER OF A STAR BE INTO A STAGEHAND?
SHE COMES AROUND A LOT LATELY.

THE STORY OF BLUE EYES

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS A GIRL NAMED BLUE EYES. A PRINCE FELL IN LOVE WITH HER, AND THE TWO GOT ENGAGED. BUT THE PRINCE ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHED A "MEMORY LOSS PLANT" AND WAS CURSED. HE FORGOT THE THING THAT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM: BLUE EYES. BLUE EYES WENT LOOKING FOR THE PRINCE AND FOUND HIM STUCK IN A SWAMP. SHE CALLED FOR HIM, BUT THE PRINCE KEPT COMPLAINING THAT HE WAS TIRED AND HIS LEGS FELT HEAVY. HE WOULDN'T GET OUT OF THE SWAMP. MEANWHILE, THE SPIRITS OF THE SWAMP GRABBED HIS WRISTS SO HE COULDN'T LEAVE. TO SAVE HIM, BLUE EYES GRABBED THE PRINCE'S SWORD AND CUT HIS HANDS OFF. THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.


YOU'RE PAYING ...
HUH? WHY ME?
... FOR THEIR PART OF THE BILL, RIGHT?
I NEVER SAID I'D PAY, THOUGH!
I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP YOU OUT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW HIS WEAKNESS!
Hey! Please get Mitsuru senpai!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD GET SOME INFO FROM THEM WHILE MITSURU WAS AWAY!
OUT ON AN ERRAND


YOU NEED TO EAT WELL TO STAY HEALTHY! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE MONEY!
IT'S OKAY! I KNOW!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT!
OH.
I CAN'T ...
I CAN SEE HE'S STARTING TO WORRY ABOUT HIS FUTURE.
THIS IS AN INVESTMENT. I HAVE TO MAKE HIM REMEMBER THE GOOD LIFE. ♡
WELL, AKIRA? COME ON!
SORRY ...
...BUT HE HAS PLANS WITH ME TONIGHT.
RIGHT, AKIRA?

N ...
NORIKO ROKUJYO.
AKIRA, WHO IS THIS LADY?
OH, EXCUSE ME.
I'M AKIRA'S FIANCÉE.
WHAT?
AKIRA, WHO IS THIS WOMAN?
NORIKO ...
NO-RIKO ...
WE'RE NO LONGER ...
HIS FIANCÉE?

NORIKO ...
Where's my prince?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
WHAT TIME DO YOU GET OFF WORK?
THE PRINCESS WAS FED UP WAITING FOR HER PRINCE.
YES...
NOW...
ONE OF THE GALS.
...HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ASK THEM ABOUT MITSURU'S WEAKNESS?

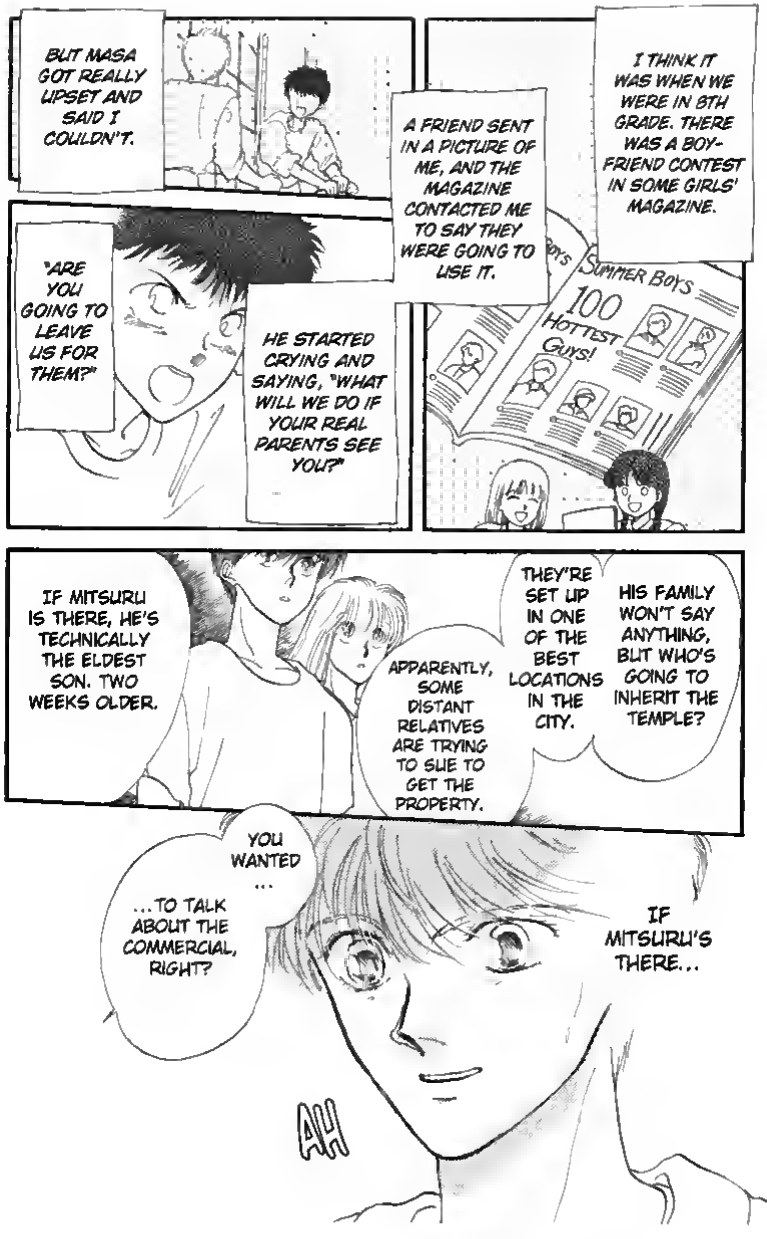
IT'S BEEN HIS DREAM TO WORK IN PHOTO-GRAPHY, EVER SINCE WE WERE LITTLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!
NOT AT ALL... OH, MY, LOOK AT THE TIME!
N-NO... I...
THANK YOU FOR LOOKING AFTER MY AKIRA, MA'AM!
OH, YOU MUST WORK WITH HIM.
SLAM
I HAVE TO GO! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
AKIRA!
OH NO
HOW DARE HE MESS WITH MY HEART?
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HE MADE ME SPEND ON HIM!
Glad I expensed it!
BUT ...
...I WON'T GIVE UP!
I'M SO UNLUCKY!
GRAB THE WHEEL!
HE EVEN HAS HIS RICH-GIRL FIANCÉE!
PHOTOGRAPHER MY ASS! HE'S JUST ANOTHER RICH BOY WITH A HOBBY!
SCREE

WE CAME ALL THE WAY OUT TO SEE HIM, AND WE DIDN'T GET TO.
PLUS IT'S STARTING TO POUR.
I WONDER WHERE HE WENT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE ME PICK YOU UP IN THE RAIN.
WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST COME TO THE HOUSE?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE HE LIVES IN A DORM!
HIS FAMILY LIVES CLOSE BY.
WHY'S HE HERE?
HEY.
WHY DID MITSURU DECIDE TO LIVE IN THE DORM?
THAT'S IT!
OF COURSE!

WHAT?
WE'RE NOT TELLING YOU SQUAT!
OH.
HEY.
Mitsuru's fans are scary.
NO.
I DON'T THINK HE'S BACK.
NOT YET.
?
WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANYTHING OUT OF THEM!
CHAK
ARGH!
WAIT!
REALLY? WANT TO HEAD BACK?
I THINK HE SHOULD BE BACK BY NOW!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COME THIS FAR..
UGUISUDANI
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHERE DID HE GO?
HUH?
HE WENT ON AN ERRAND ...
WHERE DID MITSURU-SEMPAI GO?

ZHAAA
THUD THUD
SUKA-CHAN!
IS THE RAIN EVER GOING TO STOP? GEEZ...
THAT'S THE KEY TO MITSURU'S WEAKNESS.
SOME-HOW, I KNOW IT.
You're so aggressive lately.
You'll get it out of him?
OF COURSE HE'S HIDING IT FROM ME! THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT!
DON'T!
SHINOBU'S NOT GOING TO TELL US!
I'LL GET IT OUT OF HIM!

ARE YOU REALLY HIS FRIENDS?
WELL, WE'RE HIS KOHAI.
YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW?
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD.
IT'S SO WEIRD THAT YOU CLAIM TO BE HIS FRIENDS, AND YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW.
WE ALL KNOW.
LET'S GO.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY A SECRET ...
...BUT WE'RE NOT TELLING YOU.
CHK
Huh?
But
CHK
GAAH
Thanks for taking care of the tab!
See you later!
BYE BYE
MAYBE HE DOESN'T TRUST YOU GUYS.


BUT MASA GOT REALLY UPSET AND SAID I COULDN'T.
I THINK IT WAS WHEN WE WERE IN 8TH GRADE. THERE WAS A BOY-FRIEND CONTEST IN SOME GIRLS' MAGAZINE.
A FRIEND SENT IN A PICTURE OF ME, AND THE MAGAZINE CONTACTED ME TO SAY THEY WERE GOING TO USE IT.
SUMMER BOYS
100 HOTTEST GUYS!
"ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE US FOR THEM?"
HE STARTED CRYING AND SAYING, "WHAT WILL WE DO IF YOUR REAL PARENTS SEE YOU?"
IF MITSURU IS THERE, HE'S TECHNICALLY THE ELDEST SON. TWO WEEKS OLDER.
APPARENTLY, SOME DISTANT RELATIVES ARE TRYING TO SUE TO GET THE PROPERTY.
THEY'RE SET UP IN ONE OF THE BEST LOCATIONS IN THE CITY.
HIS FAMILY WON'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT WHO'S GOING TO INHERIT THE TEMPLE?
YOU WANTED ...
...TO TALK ABOUT THE COMMERCIAL, RIGHT?
IF MITSURU'S THERE...
AH

PAT
PAT
HE'S ADOPTED.
SHI-NOBU-SEM-PAI!
HE DOESN'T TRUST ME!
THE DAY HIS YOUNGER BROTHER MASATO WAS BORN...
SEE?
...MITSURU WAS FOUND ABANDONED AT THE TEMPLE. MASATO'S PARENTS TOOK HIM IN. HE WAS ONLY TWO WEEKS OLD.
HE'S BEEN TOLD THIS EVER SINCE HE WAS YOUNG.

I'M NOT GOING TO TRUST YOU UNTIL YOU GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND MOVE BACK HOME.
EVEN IF YOU SWEAR..
...YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE OUR FAMILY!

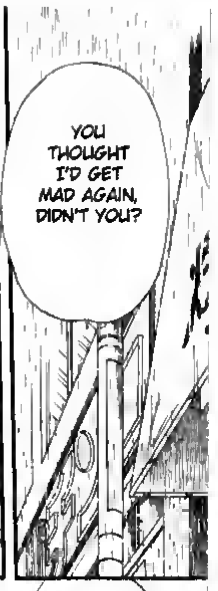
"THERE'S A JAPANESE PROVERB— 'WHEN THERE'S A GOD WHO ABANDONS YOU, THERE'S A GOD WHO SAVES YOU."
"IN MY CASE, IT WAS BUDDHA..."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

HE WAS TOLD HE WASN'T WANTED RIGHT AFTER BEING BORN...
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, HASUKAWA?

I'M SURE THERE WASN'T AN OPPORTUNITY TO BRING IT UP BEFORE. IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT.

MASA ...
THEN ...
I'M NOT DUMB, YOU KNOW.
OH!

STOP TREATING ME LIKE A KID.
I WAS TWELVE WHEN THAT HAPPENED.


YOU THOUGHT I'D GET MAD AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

MASA...
ANYWAY, DON'T THINK I DON'T SUSPECT SOMETHING.

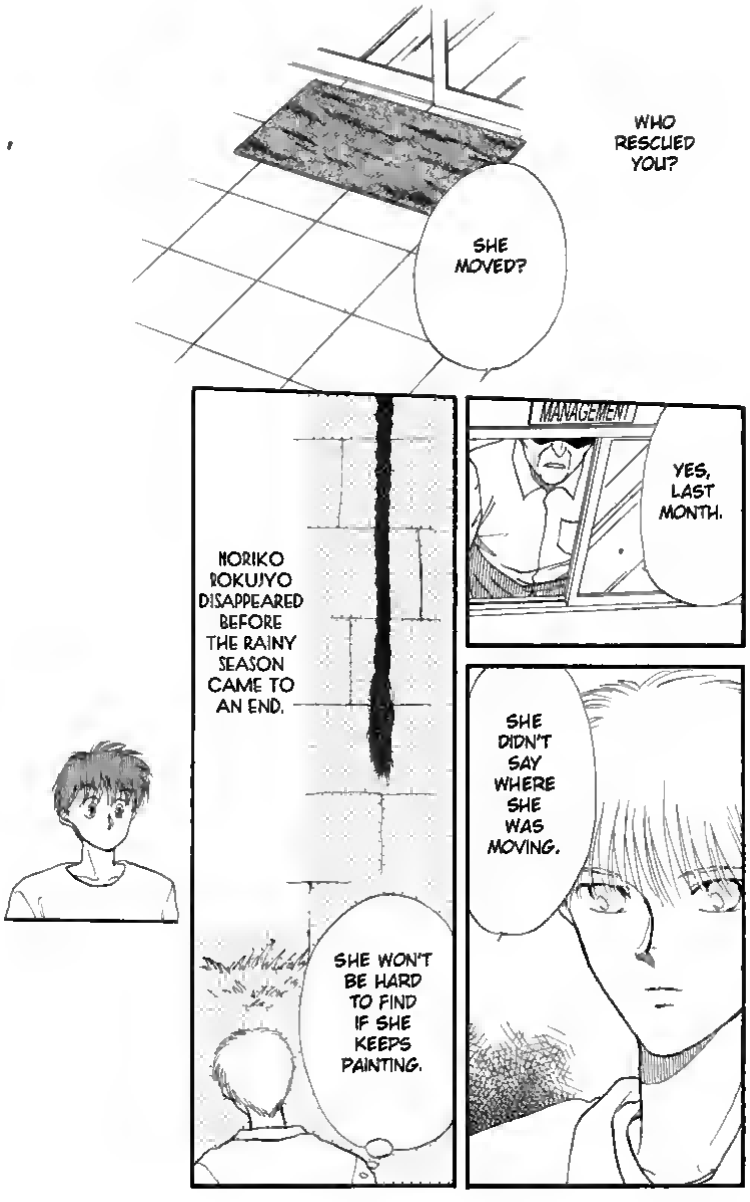
My heart almost stopped when I saw you on TV!
HOW ARE THEY GOING TO KNOW IT'S YOU AT SEVENTEEN AND WITH MAKEUP ON?
THEY ONLY KNEW YOU AS A TWO-WEEK-OLD BABY.

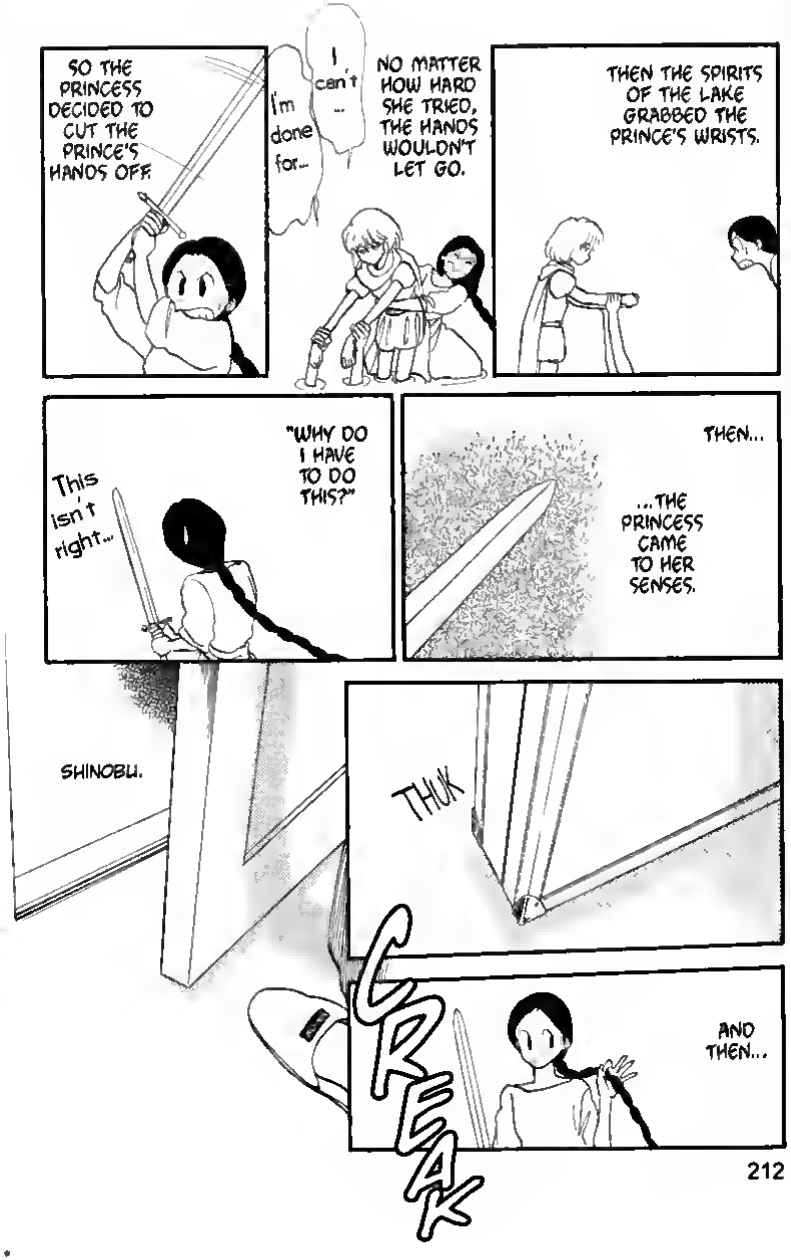
NORIKO, YOU FINISHED COLLEGE, RIGHT?
YOUR FATHER USED TO GET MAD WHEN YOU DID THAT.
THAT HABIT ...
I SEE.
I SEE... THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO DO.
YES.
I'M GETTING PAID TO PAINT.
IT'S STILL A HOBBY, MOSTLY.
NORIKO ...
SO I'M HAVING A LOT OF FUN.
BUT I COULDN'T HELP IT.
...YOU MUST BE ANGRY.

YOU LOOK SO DIFFERENT.
I COULDN'T TELL IT WAS YOU.
HOW COULD HE BE SO STRONG?
YOU KNOW ...
...I WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE TOLD ME YOU WERE AT THE STUDIO.
YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT GOING INTO PHOTOGRAPHY.
SHINOBU TOLD ME YOU WERE THERE.
YEAH...
I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING A JOB AS AN ASSISTANT THERE.

THE PRINCESS, TIRED OF WAITING FOR HER PRINCE, CLIMBED OUT OF THE TOWER BY HER OWN HAIR.
Here I go.
IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME...
...IF YOU WERE A PRINCE OR NOT.
WHEN HE HEARD THE PRINCESS, THE PRINCE TRIED TO MAKE IT TO SHORE. BUT WITH EVERY STEP..
My feet are heavy.
I'm tired.
...HE WOULD COMPLAIN AND NOT GET VERY FAR.
AND THE PRINCE ALMOST MADE IT TO SHORE.
Come on!
You can do it!
THE PRINCESS KEPT ENCOURAGING HIM.
AS THE PRINCESS WAS WALKING, SHE FOUND HER MISSING PRINCE...
...BUT THE PRINCE WAS STUCK IN A STRANGE SWAMP.
PHOOEY
AH!

I THOUGHT IT WAS BEST IF YOU STAYED AT HOME WITH NO HARDSHIPS.
I COULDN'T MARRY YOU.
I HAD NO SKILLS, AND I WASN'T SURE IF I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.
I SEE.
GOOD-BYE, THEN.
YOU CAN FORGET ME.
I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY.
NORIKO.
AKIRA...
I...


WHO RESCUED YOU?
SHE MOVED?
NORIKO ROKUJYO DISAPPEARED BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON CAME TO AN END.
SHE WON'T BE HARD TO FIND IF SHE KEEPS PAINTING.
MANAGEMENT
YES, LAST MONTH.
SHE DIDN'T SAY WHERE SHE WAS MOVING.


SO THE PRINCESS DECIDED TO CUT THE PRINCE'S HANDS OFF.
I'm done for...
I can't ...
NO MATTER HOW HARD SHE TRIED, THE HANDS WOULDN'T LET GO.
THEN THE SPIRITS OF THE LAKE GRABBED THE PRINCE'S WRISTS.
This isn't right...
"WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?"
THEN...
...THE PRINCESS CAME TO HER SENSES.
SHINOBU.
THUK
CREAK
AND THEN...

Translation Notes

Page 13 As has been dramatized in previous volumes of *Greenwood*, in Japan girls give chocolate to boys on Valentine's Day (Boys return the favor a month later on White Day.) Noriko's gift to Shinobu is about as classy as Valentine's candy gets: homemade chocolate that doubles as a piece of Japanese calligraphy. The kanji characters read "Calculating." Now who could Noriko have been thinking of when she wrote that?

Page 21 Nonyuki Higashiyama is a 1980s-era idol singer best known as part of the three-member boy band Shonentai. Nowadays, he's still touring with Shonentai, and he occasionally pops up in movie and television roles. Does he look like Shinobu? Decide for yourself! http://www.amuzon.co.jp/exec/obidos/ASIN/4835615093/250-1296850-2664209

Page 24 *Devilman* is a classic hyperviolent manga and anime series created by the great Go Nagai. The hero, Akira Fudo, is a pure-hearted boy who allows himself to be possessed by a demon to fight evil. *Microid S* (or "Micro-Supermen") is a manga and anime series created by Osamu Tezuka. The story involves three "microns"—tiny half-humans, half-insects—who help humans fight an invasion of insect creatures. Presumably, both of these long-running series have included battles with evil androids and/or possessed dolls.

Page 46 Gums and knees are said to loosen in cold weather. Living in mild-to-brisk San Francisco, I am unable to verify this bit of Japanese folk wisdom empirically, but readers in more extreme climates are welcome to put their own gums and knees to the test.

Page 96 The students with the country accents are speaking in the Kumamoto dialect, a thick dialect spoken in the Kumamoto area on the island of Kyushu. It's different enough from standard Japanese that most Japanese people have trouble understanding "full" Kumamoto. American English doesn't have a close equivalent, but thick rural dialects in Britain, like Welsh English and Yorkshire, have a comparable flavor.

Page 107 Hiroko Shino is an actress who has appeared in a number of television drama series since the 1970s.

Page 119 A *ryokan* is a traditional Japanese inn, usually distinguished by an emphasis on old-fashioned decor and service. Shun ought to recognize a first-rate *ryokan*, since his family owns at least one. See Volume 4 for the sordid details.

Page 145 With Japanese pronunciation, "commercial" sounds quite a bit like "Marshall." Yes, it's still a terrible pun.

Page 191 As hardcore *otaku* know, an image album is a soundtrack CD for a manga or anime series containing songs that don't actually occur in the anime. Rather, the tracks on an image album are usually original songs and/or audio playlets "inspired by" the series, sometimes performed by the anime voice actors. Our heroes are showing off a copy of the first *Greenwood* image album, released in 1989. The illustration on this page appears to have inspired the cover of the 1992 *Greenwood* "Vocal Best Collection" compilation album, which also has the cast posing behind a clothesline.

FIND THE PRINCE!: THE END

Here is Greenwood™

Kazuya Hasukawa enrolled in the prestigious Ryokuto Academy to get a little ivy-walled peace and quiet. He had no idea he'd be assigned to Greenwood Dormitory, the school's haven for eccentrics, where anarchy is the order of the day, every day. This time around, Shinobu's usual Valentine's Day worries–three dates at once!–are interrupted by a visit from a space alien. Mitsuru organizes a baseball team to settle an old grudge. And Kazuya is put through his paces in preparation for the most fearsome task imaginable: filling Mitsuru's and Shinobu's shoes as the new Dorm Head!

But things don't get really out of hand until the boys run into their old friend, idol singer Nitta Mieko...who invites Mitsuru and Shinobu to appear in a TV commercial! Can Greenwood survive a brush with stardom?

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